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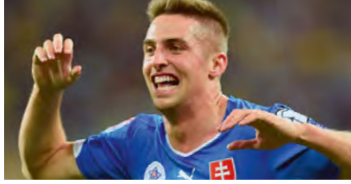

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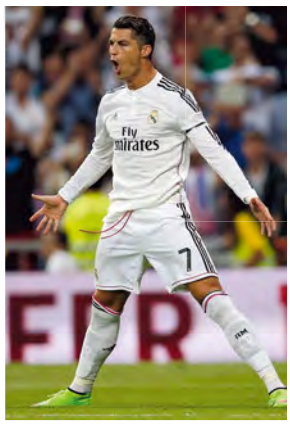

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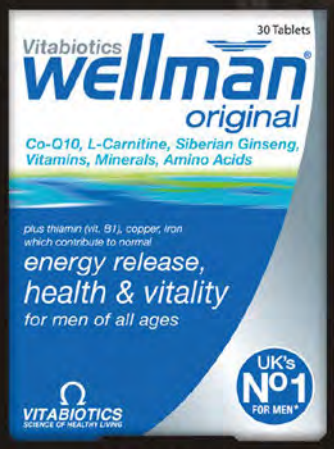

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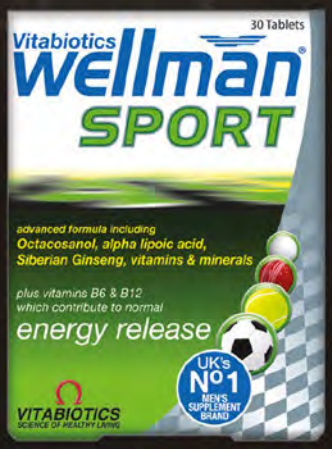

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Official investigation into 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids see claims of a whitewash

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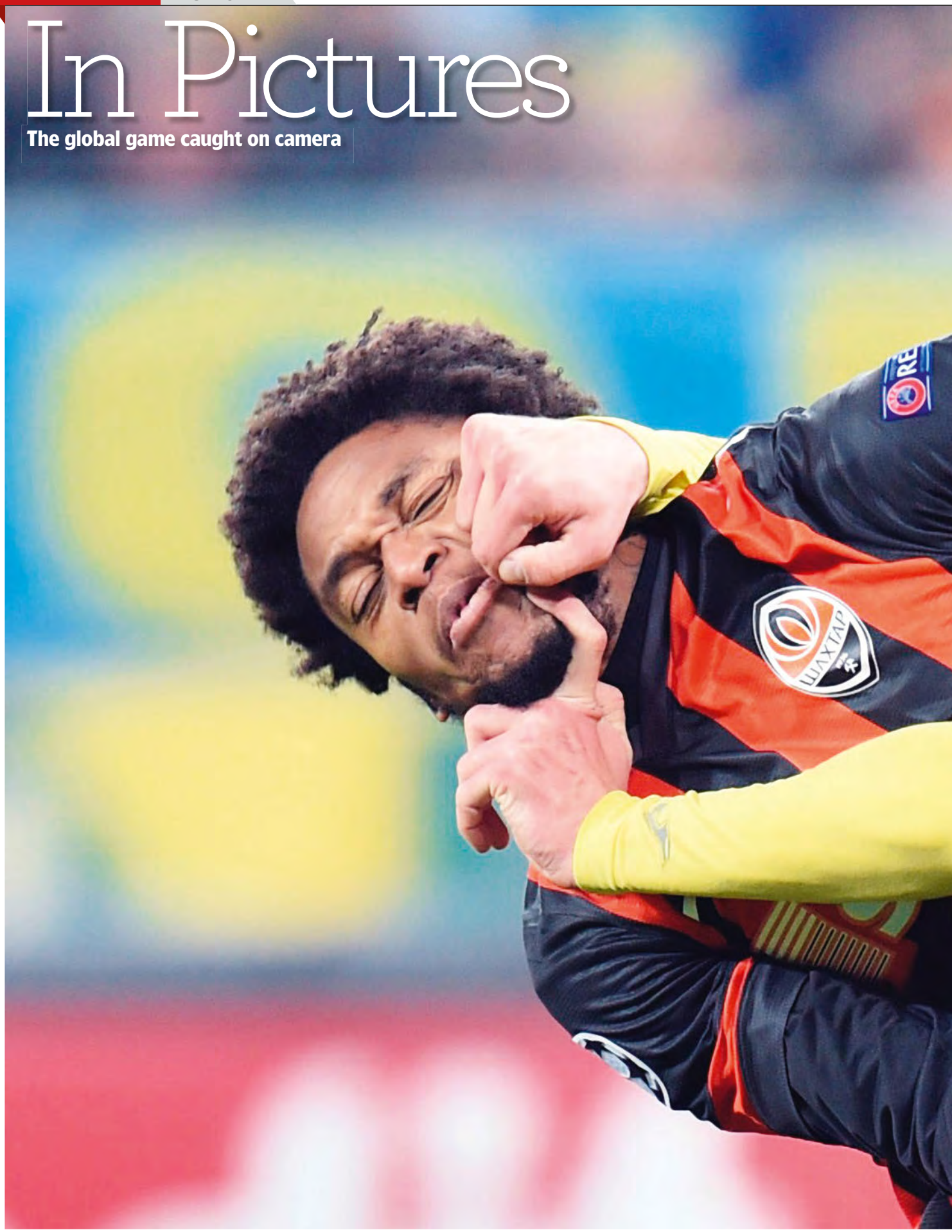
In Pictures

The global game caught on camera



UKRAINE...Shakhtar Donetsk striker Luiz Adriano (left) and BATE midfielder Yevgeniy Yablonskiy clash in the Champions League

JORDAN...players line up to pray during a national team training session

PERU...fans of Colombia's Atletico Nacional at a Sudamericana Cup game away to Cesar Vallejo of Peru

ENGLAND...West Bromwich Albion's Chris Brunt celebrates an own goal by Leicester City's Esteban Cambiasso

BRAZIL...Wallace of Flamengo (left) and Carlos of Atletico Mineiro come face to face during a Brazilian Cup tie

ECUADOR...Sao Paulo's Ganso and Souza leave the pitch after a game away to Emelec

PARAGUAY...Andres Chavez of Argentinian club Boca Juniors celebrates a goal by team-mate Emanuel Gigliotti in the 4-1 win away to Cerro Porteno

PICTURES OF THE MONTH QR CODE

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FROM THE EDITOR

Another month, another scandal at FIFA. It has felt like Groundhog Day in the *World Soccer* offices as we prepared yet another report (see page 24) on a world governing body that appears increasingly dysfunctional and discredited with every passing day.

The latest revelations may make for depressing reading but there is also a sense that things might finally be changing for the better. Whisper it quietly, but at the age of 78, Sepp Blatter may finally be losing his grip on FIFA House.

> Whisper it quietly, but at the age of 78, Sepp Blatter may finally be losing his grip on FIFA House

The forced departures, in disgrace, of the likes of Jack Warner and Mohamed Bin Hammam has deprived the FIFA president of key lieutenants who helped to guarantee political support in return for a blind eye turned to their financial misdemeanours.

There is plenty to be played out over the coming months, but for Blatter to portray the English-speaking media as motivated by anger at English and American defeats in the 2018 and 2022 World Cup votes is wholly misleading. We have long campaigned to highlight the problems in Zurich; the rest of the world is finally waking up to the fact that a FIFA without Blatter will be a better place.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1 African Nations Cup switched to Equatorial Guinea ..... pages 8 and 12
2 FIFA rocked by Garcia report row ..... page 24
3 Continental triumph for Western Sydney Wanderers ..... page 38
4 Real Madrid head to Morocco for the Club World Cup ..... page 32
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6 Roberto Mancini returns to Internazionale ..... page 42
7 Borussia Dortmund slump in the Bundesliga ..... page 46
8 South Africa mourns murdered captain ..... page 36
9 Egypt and Nigeria miss out on African Nations Cup ..... page 93
10 Algeria's ES Setif win African Champions League Final ..... page 92

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Second chance...Equatorial Guinea (in red) take on Zambia

Nations Cup switched to Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea will host the 2015 African Nations Cup in January and February after Morocco were stripped of its hosting rights at the last minute following an unsuccessful request to postpone the tournament until next summer because of fears surrounding the Ebola virus.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) refused to allow Morocco's request to delay the tournament because of government fears that the Ebola virus could hit the country's lucrative tourist industry. Instead CAF banned Morocco from competing in the 2015 finals, as well as the 2017 and 2019 competitions.

CAF appealed to other African nations to come forward as an alternative host, but only Equatorial Guinea, the co-hosts with Gabon of the 2012 finals, was prepared to take on the role of emergency hosts. CAF president Issa Hayatou had said that any postponement of the tournament would be a "mortal blow" to the African game.

Ironically, Equatorial Guinea, were disqualified from the Nations Cup preliminary round in August after fielding an ineligible player. Matches will be held at four venues in Bata, Ebebiyin, Mongomo and the capital, Malabo.

The finals draw will take place in Malabo on December 3.

• *Mark Gleeson: The View from Africa*, see page 12

"He seriously cannot play football"

Former Croatia skipper Zvonimir Boban launches a scathing attack on Belgium and Manchester United midfielder Marouane Fellaini (right)

COACHING CASUALTIES

Coaches pay the price as minnows strike backs

Failure...Gharib's Egypt went out of the Nations Cup

Gone...Bosnia boss Susic

The latest round of Euro 2016 qualifiers saw a number of Europe's smaller nations pull off some impressive results against more accomplished sides, while a number of big-name coaches lost their jobs following poor results.

Claudio Ranieri lasted just four months as coach of Greece, losing his job after a humiliating defeat to Faroe Islands (see *Dispatches*, page 44),

Veteran Dick Advocaat parted company with Serbia following a 3-1 home defeat to Denmark. Serbia's chances of qualifying for Euro 2016 had diminished rapidly after they were docked points following the controversial meeting with Albania in October.

Luboslav Penev was sacked by Bulgaria following a run of poor results that culminated in a frustrating 1-1 home draw with Malta.

Temuri Ketsbaia left his post as coach of Georgia after a 4-0 thrashing at home to Poland in their latest qualifier.

Safet Susic, the hero of Bosnia's qualification for the 2014 World Cup, parted company with the federation after a home defeat to Israel. Earlier in the campaign, Bosnia lost to Cyprus and Susic who was surprisingly handed a new contract despite Bosnia's failure to progress from their World Cup group, was criticised for his team selections and one-dimensional tactics.

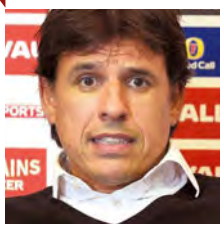
Elsewhere in the European qualifiers, San Marino ended a 61-game losing run with a draw against Estonia to gain their first European Championship qualifying point. The draw was only San Marino's fourth clean sheet and the fifth occasion they have avoided defeat in 124 games.

Quit...Advocaat left his role with Serbia

Fellow minnows Liechtenstein won 1-0 away in Moldova. It was the country's first away win since beating Luxembourg 4-0 in a World Cup qualifier in October 2004.

Outside of Europe, Shawky Gharib was sacked as coach of Egypt after a 2-1 defeat to Tunisia meant the team failed to qualify for next year's African Nations Cup in Equatorial Guinea.

John Holmesdale.



"If you're a Welshman you can never get too confident. We're a small country who have never done much"

Wales manager Chris Coleman refuses to get carried away after his side's goalless draw with Belgium in Brussels in the Euro 2016 qualifiers

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://po.st/RfyeJ5

1 JOSE SALOMON RONDON
Zenit v Bayer Leverkusen
Exchanges passes with Alexander Ryazantsev – who puts him through with a delightful half-volley pass – before volleying in from close range.

2 VASILIY KOBIN
Metalist v Legia Warsaw
Scores with a spectacular overhead kick after being set up by an audacious back-heel flick from defender Marco Torsiglieri following a corner.

3 ERIK LAMELA
Tottenham Hotspur v Asteras
Brilliant "Rabona" shot with his left foot from outside the penalty area into the top corner.

4 ESTEBAN RAMIREZ
Herediano v Deportivo Saprissa
Shows amazing technique to first control the ball on his chest, then his head, before hitting a fierce volley past the goalkeeper in the Costa Rican Primera division.

5 CARLOS TEVEZ
Juventus v Parma
The Argentinian runs from inside his own half, beating several players along the way, before coolly finishing.

6 AYOZE PEREZ
Newcastle United v West Bromwich Albion
Meets a cross from Darryl Janmaat before back-flicking the ball low into the far corner.

WINNERS

WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS
Made history by becoming the first Australian team to win the Asian Champions League.

ROGERIO CENI
Sao Paulo's goalscoring keeper set a new world record with his 590th victory for one club. He beat Ryan Giggs' 589 wins for Manchester United.

ES SETIF
The Algerians beat Congolese side Vita Club to win the CAF Champions League title.

LOSERS

ZORAN TOSIC
CSKA Moscow's ex-Manchester United winger was prevented from playing in the Champions League game at Manchester City after entering the UK with the wrong visa.

DAVID JAMES
The former England goalkeeper was forced to auction off all his possessions to avoid bankruptcy.

PARMA
The Italian club suffered their heaviest-ever Serie A defeat when beaten 7-0 away to Juventus.

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Mark GLEESON

THE VIEW FROM AFRICA

Stubborn Morocco and Hayatou threaten a Nations Cup shambles

Equatorial Guinea is likely to be stretched well past its capacity for the upcoming African Nations Cup after its small infrastructure and limited facilities were volunteered for the emergency hosting of the continent's showpiece sporting event.

Ultimately, getting two teams onto the pitch with attendant officials and television cameras for the opening match is likely to be achieved but, with barely two months to organise, there will likely be little else in place.

Eight weeks would be taxing enough for any country to put together a four-venue, 16-team, three-week tournament. And Equatorial Guinea, flush with oil cash but desperately short of anything else, found itself with a major headache the last time it hosted the tournament. Yet in 2012, when sharing the organisation with Gabon, it had only half the field to worry about.

But, having painted itself into a corner, the Confederation of African Football had few other options as it insisted on sticking to the tournament being held from January 17 to February 8.

Morocco's request to be granted a postponement met with little sympathy. Instead, there was rather searing resentment from African football's governing body, who then gambled on finding an alternative – even though it was running the risk of having to cancel its showpiece event and lose its major revenue resource.

Some diplomacy, subtlety and flexibility on either side might have sorted out an amicable solution to the dilemma, which centred around Moroccan fears for its tourist industry in the wake of the Ebola virus outbreak in west Africa.

It believed the tournament could prove a conduit to the spread of the deadly fever, putting not only its citizens at risk but also threatening a major pillar of the Moroccan economy. Just a single case of Ebola in the north African kingdom could have had dire consequences for the travel trade from Europe.

But the facts are that the chances of the Nations Cup bringing with it the virus are far fetched indeed and here Morocco has been overtly alarmist.

It said it believed up to one million visitors would come for the tournament, which is an estimate of folly. The World Cup in South Africa in 2010 attracted 309,554 – and that for a tournament double the size of the African Nations Cup and one week longer.

Spelling it out...a Moroccan fan holds a message accusing CAF president Hayatou of not caring about security

The Nations Cup tournament traditionally attracts no more than a couple of hundred supporters from each participating nation. Morocco might have had a lot more than usual, given Algeria is next door, but virtually none from Ebola's epicentre in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The latter two nations have not qualified and Guinea, ironically, has been using Morocco as its base for "home" matches in the preliminary competition because CAF's Ebola ban prevents the team from playing in its capital, Conakry.

Morocco, too, is the only African country with direct air links to all three capitals. It is understandable then that CAF characterised Morocco's reasons as unrealistic and dug in its heels. The unspoken elephant in the room is also a perception of racism, with Morocco happy to welcome visitors from Spain (where there has been an Ebola death) for December's Club World Cup but not from west Africa. Relations between the Arabic north and black Africa south of the Sahara are always a little edgy over perceived racial slights and this is the unspoken reason why CAF president Issa Hayatou insisted that the Nations Cup finals go ahead on schedule.

The reasons he gave for not moving the dates to June, as Morocco initially asked, were spurious too and reflective of the stubbornness which three decades of dictatorial power over African football has bred.

Moving the tournament to mid-year would not be possible, said Hayatou, because players would not be released by their European clubs and the tournaments dates are fixed on the FIFA calendar.

Few believe for a moment it would not have been possible, especially in such exceptional circumstances, for Hayatou to get FIFA to adjust its calendar and ensure the release of all called up. It is not as if they would have been playing in June anyway!

CAF's claims that its calendar is full also stretches reality. It has certainly moved club matches around or postponed events with regularity in the past when expedient to do so.

June remains the optimal date anyway for the Nations Cup final but it is an idea that Hayatou doggedly refuses to entertain. That

"I am very sad for him [former Inter president Massimo Moratti]. I had told him: 'Kick out that Filipino' "

Sampdoria president Massimo Ferrero (right) criticises Internazionale's Indonesian owner Erick Thohir – and was later forced to issue a grovelling apology

stems back to the time when the co-ordinated international calendar was introduced by FIFA under pressure from powerful European cubs tired of losing key African and/or South American players to international duty at haphazard times.

CAF had already been persuaded by French clubs, then the most affected by the Nations Cup, to switch the tournament from March to January, during their brief winter break. But Hayatou refused to move again, despite wider European pressure, for fear of being seen to cave in to the demands of the "colonists of the north".

He has steadfastly stuck to the January date ever since, offering up no end of weak supporting arguments, mostly scientific nonsense about African weather.

Holding the Nations Cup every odd year in June could make considerably more television revenue. As it stands now, this upcoming Nations Cup clashes for broadcast time with the Asian Cup in Australia.

CAF has certainly postponed its events in the past when expedient

Had Morocco approached its dilemma with a touch more diplomacy it might have got a much more sympathetic hearing. Instead it caught CAF unawares with a terse statement requesting a postponement on the basis of a health ministry warning. It was no surprise Hayatou's hackles went up immediately.

With growing western intervention in the Ebola fight, it is not unreasonable to suggest that by the middle of next year the ravages of the disease might have been much more controlled, making a June Nations Cup safer and the centre of world football for a month.

But Morocco displayed a lack of sensitivity and subtlety which immediately enraged the majority of the African football family.

Now, instead of a showpiece event in glamorous surrounds, providing a positive image of the game in Africa, we have the prospect of an organisational shambles, which only serves to reinforce unfortunate ante stereotypes. **WS**

HEROES & VILLAINS

Record...Wright-Phillips

BRADLEY WRIGHT-PHILLIPS

The son of former Arsenal striker Ian Wright, equalled the MLS scoring record in a single regular season when he scored 27 goals in 32 appearances for New York Red Bulls.

BREEL EMBOLO

The 17-year-old schoolboy may have opened the scoring for Basle in their 4-0 Champions League victory over Ludogorets, but was still expected back in the classroom at 8am next day.

LEE HEALEY

The Cefn Druids striker hit a hat-trick in the first seven minutes of a 3-1 Welsh league game against Prestatyn Town.

LUIZ ADRIANO

Shakhtar Donetsk's Brazilian forward became only the second player, after Barcelona's Lionel Messi, to score five goals in a UEFA Champions League game. In the same game – a 7-0 win against BATE – he also recorded the third-fastest hat-trick in the competition's history.

Unstoppable...Adriano bags his fifth against BATE

CHUCK BLAZER

The former FIFA ExCo member and CONCACAF general-secretary was uncovered as an FBI informant who hadn't paid any tax for over a decade, didn't declare any income from 1992-1998 and misappropriated tens of millions of dollars through various illegal methods.

NASSER AL SHAMRANI

Having already butted Western Sydney Wanderers' defender Matthew Spiranovic during his side's defeat in the Asian Champions League Final, the Al Hilal striker was seen spitting at the same player after the final whistle.

SANDRO WIESER

The Liechtenstein international was sent off for a tackle on Gilles Yapi-Yapo of Zurich that may yet end the player's career and resulted in the Swiss club launching a criminal case for assault against the Aarau midfielder.

JO

The Brazil international was released by Atletico Mineiro, along with two other players, following a "serious" breach of team rules. Club officials did not elaborate, but Jo – who represented the national side at the World Cup this summer – had already been punished by Atletico this season for indiscipline.

Indiscipline...Jo has been sacked by his club

"That's the problem with translators. There comes a time when they convince themselves they wrote the text themselves"

Former France coach Raymond Domenech (left) mocks Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho's start in the game

12 MATCHES THAT MATTERED

Recent crunch games from around the globe

BATE 0
SHAKHTAR DONETSK 7
Luiz Adriano scored a 12-minute hat-trick and finished with five goals as Shakhtar became the first club to score six Champions League goals before half-time.

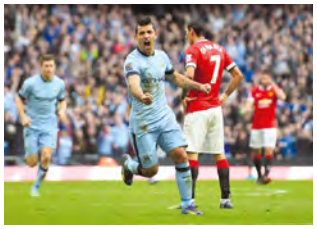
LANUS 1
CERRO PORTENO 1
Sudamericana Cup holders Lanus went out of this year's tournament after losing 3-2 on aggregate to their Paraguayan opponents.

REAL MADRID 3
BARCELONA 1
Luis Suarez played his first competitive game since his four-month ban but was on the losing side as Barca conceded in La Liga for the first time this season.

BRAGA 2
BENFICA 1
Benfica suffered their first Portuguese league defeat of the season despite taking an early lead. Salvador Agra grabbed a late winner for Braga.

ES SETIF 1
VITA CLUB 1
Algeria's Setif continued north Africa's dominance of the CAF Champions League with victory on away goals after a 3-3 draw with Vita Club of DR Congo in the Final.

AL HILAL 0
WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS 0
Substitute Tomi Juric's goal for Wanderers in the first leg of the Final saw an Australian club win the AFC Champions League for the first time.



MANCHESTER CITY 1
MANCHESTER UNITED 0
A second-half strike from Sergio Aguero made it four consecutive derby wins in the league for City over their neighbours for the first time in 44 years.

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN 2
MARSEILLE 0
The defending champions cut OM's lead at the top of Ligue 1 to a point with goals from Lucas Moura and Edinson Cavani.

RIVER PLATE 0
ESTUDIANTES 1
River remained top of the table in Argentina but failed to set a new club record of 32 games unbeaten as they went down to a goal from Diego Vera.

GREECE 0
FAROE ISLANDS 1
The Faroes recorded their first win of the Euro qualifying campaign and the greatest result in their history, thanks to a goal by Joan Edmundsson.

EGYPT 0
SENEGAL 1
Mame Biram Diouf scored the goal that secured Senegal's place in the African Nations Cup finals and ended the hopes of seven-times winners Egypt.

SOUTH AFRICA 2
SUDAN 1
The hosts secured their place in the African Nations Cup finals with a victory in Durban – home of their murdered goalkeeper, Senzo Meyiwa.

FOOTBALL MANAGER 2015

NEW ROLES, REAL EXAMPLES

The new FM2015 features some exciting new positions

THE ENGANCHE

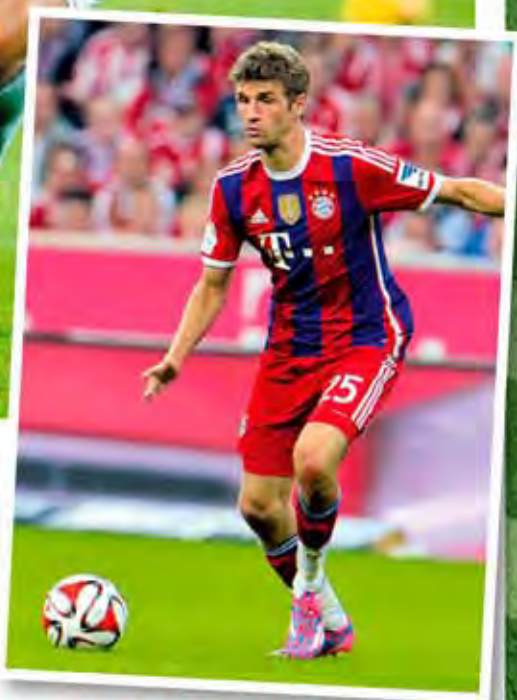
The Enganche is the side's prime creator, a hook that joins midfield and attack. Operating behind the strikers, the playmaker sticks to his position and becomes a pivot to his team as they move around him. Unlike the Trequartista, it is a more stationary role as the Enganche acts as the focal point instead of moving around into larger areas of space.

REAL LIFE EXAMPLE: DAVID SILVA

THE TREQUARTISTA

The Trequartista can operate in an attacking midfield or centre-forward role. While similar to the Advanced Playmaker in that he aims to drop into the gap between the opposition's midfield and defence, the Trequartista does far less defensively and simply drifts around looking for space when his team is not in possession. As such, the rest of the team needs to carry him when defending, but use him as the main outlet when attacking.

REAL LIFE EXAMPLE: LIONEL MESSI



THE RAUMDEUTER

The Raumdeuter literally translated from German means "space investigator". His main role is to find pockets of space in which to operate. Essentially a wide poacher, the Raumdeuter takes up seemingly harmless positions out wide, waiting for the moment to burst through the defensive line for that telling shot or cross. He is difficult for defenders to pick up as he will often drift from his assigned position looking for an opportunity to exploit. This can result in quiet periods during which the Raumdeuter may neglect his defensive duties, so a strong team shape is key in order to utilise his attacking prowess in the final third.

REAL LIFE EXAMPLE: THOMAS MULLER

FM2015 IS OUT NOW

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

I've changed my mind: coaches can improve players and teams

The topic of James Surowiecki's fascinating article in a recent issue of *The New Yorker* was how we are getting better at doing all sorts of things. There are now many more top-level chess players and musicians than there used to be. And we make much more reliable cars and TV sets these days.

We also have better athletes and that, says Surowiecki, is because we have better training. His reference point is gridiron football. When the Cleveland Browns won the NFL title 50 years ago, they had only five assistant coaches; today most NFL teams have 15 or more.

He cites a number of other sports – cycling, golf, baseball, tennis, basketball – in which better training, more scientific training, has demonstrably improved performance. He doesn't mention football. Maybe he doesn't know the sport well enough. Or maybe he knows enough to know that its intricate, artistic skills owe little to the drawing board and the laboratory, and are therefore unlikely to respond to the scientific approach.

That's rather the way that I like to view things, but I've been aware for quite a while now that my opinion is a precarious one. What caused me to question my own belief has been the privileged position of goalkeepers.

Every professional team has a goalkeeping coach. How many teams have a striker coach or a defensive midfielder coach? At the heart of the athletic improvements that Surowiecki chronicles there is coaching. He states: "Training is also increasingly personalised. Players are working not just with their own individual conditioning coaches, but with their own individual skills coaches."

OK, he's talking mainly about individual sports like tennis and golf. Or sports like cycling where the physical requirements can be clearly identified. Which is true of goalkeepers.

It seems to be generally accepted that goalkeepers have got a lot better under their (almost) personalised coaching routines. So why should the same not be true for strikers?

Maybe Real Madrid and Chelsea should have 15 or more assistant coaches, each paying close personal attention to a specific player? Dealing with the way that a player runs, for instance. It does seem quite possible that players would benefit much more from individualised training than from the one-size-fits-all exercises and routines that currently prevail.

Personal training would be an add-on. Team training – the tactical training – would remain, but each player would have to devote more time to his own personal training, be it either fitness or skills on which they were working.

> Players would benefit more from individual programmes than the one-size-fits-all routines that currently prevail

One can quickly see that such a fundamental change in the training philosophy of a football team would be stoutly resisted – for the same reason that it was originally resisted in pro basketball. The players considered it unnecessary, detected in it an insulting implication that they didn't already know all that was to be known about their sport.

But in basketball, in the 1970s, Kermit Washington was converted rather quickly from a bench-warmer into an NBA All-Star as a result of working closely with a Los Angeles Lakers assistant coach, Pete Newell. Washington's rise was proof that a personal coach could work wonders. Newell was soon in demand by top NBA players.

I still prefer my conviction that great players are born great, that they do not achieve greatness through coaching. But the evidence is growing that modern, scientific, individualised coaching can get results. I hope it will never be the whole story, but it won't surprise me if goalkeepers soon cease to be the only football squad members with their own role-specific coaches. WS

OBITUARIES

VIKTOR SEREBRYANIKOV (1940-2014)
The former Dynamo Kiev midfielder was the first player to be substituted at a World Cup finals when he was replaced in the Soviet Union's opening game against Mexico in 1970.

Landmark...Serebryanikov

JUAN TAVERNA (1948-2014)
The former Banfield and Estudiantes striker won three Libertadores Cups with Estudiantes and scored seven goals in Banfield's Argentinian league record 13-1 defeat of Puerto Comercial in 1974.

Two World Cups...Ingesson

KLAS INGESSON (1968-2014)
The Elfsborg coach passed away after suffering from multiple myeloma since 2009. A midfielder in the Sweden side that finished third at the 1994 World Cup, he also played at Italia 90 and won a total of 57 caps, scoring 13 goals. Ingesson's club career took him all over Europe; after starting out with Gothenburg, he played for Mechelen, PSV, Sheffield Wednesday, Bari, Bologna, Lecce and Marseille.

RAINER HASLER (1958-2014)
The former Neuchatel Xamax and Servette right-back, who was named Liechtenstein's Golden Player as part of UEFA's Jubilee celebrations in 2004, died aged 56 following a long illness. Hasler never appeared for the Liechtenstein national team, which did not begin to play official qualifying games until 1994.

National best...Hasler

FOOTBALL MANAGER 2015 GREAT TEAMS

AFC Telford United 2082-83

Joe Perry's revived side defied the critics to win an historic quadruple

AFC Telford's 2081-82 season had not been a happy campaign. Joe Perry's men relinquished the league title to United after a season-long three-way tug of war with the Red Devils and their north-west rivals, City. The FA Cup too was surrendered, as was the Champions League, as Bucks threw away a two-goal lead to gift German giants Munich the trophy.

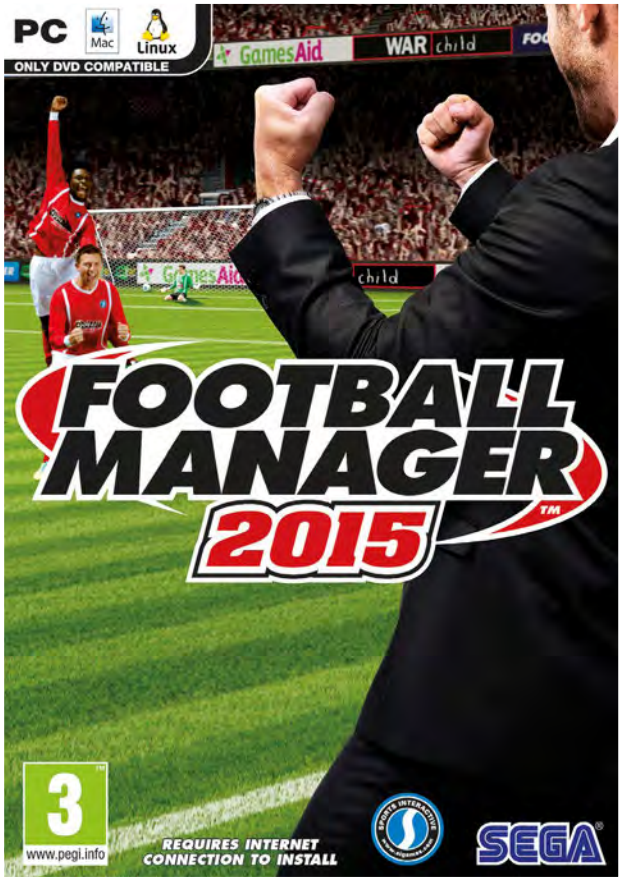
Many observers thought an overhaul was necessary, with the ageing Robert Sharpe's influence beginning to wane and young Dan Allen failing to live up to his early promise, despite having been touted as "the next Cherno Samba". Perry refused to listen to such views, even handing the vice-captaincy to Allen.

Instead, Perry's approach was to provide competition for an XI that had previously picked itself. The arrivals of Ryan Catchpole, Liam Marshall, Gary Rowbotham and Gustavo Castro, plus the return of 36 year-old club legend Isaac Addo invigorated the side, who lost just twice on the way to leaving the Manchester clubs in the dust to secure the side's fifth league championship.

The club's Cup Final win over Weston-super-Mare was the first of five victories in that competition and their League Cup Final win over Histon their fourth of seven. Despite making domestic opposition appear inferior week in, week out, many tipped Bucks to slip up against Real Madrid in the 2083 European Final, pointing to a tendency not unlike the City side of 70 years previous to slip up on the big stage.

The end result in the Stade Roi Badouin, the same stadium in which Perry's Wimborne Town had lifted their fifth consecutive European trophy in Perry's final game for his hometown club? 8-0.

No worries there, then...



THE STARTING XI

GOALKEEPER
Darren Coke
Telford's number one for 13 years, garnered 69 caps for England and four-time European Goalkeeper of the Year.

RIGHT-BACK
George Pack
Costing just £2.8m, no manager other than Perry could seem to get the best out of him and he ended his playing career in League Two.

CENTRE-BACK
Fred Hooiveld
6ft 7in rock-solid centre-back who held down a starting berth for 10 years and left with Perry in 2088.

CENTRE-BACK
Ryan Catchpole
Broke up the long-standing partnership of Hooiveld and Jose Dias to consolidate his position as first-choice for Telford and England.

LEFT-BACK
Amara Kebe
Spent 16 seasons as first-choice left-back and won 142 caps for Burkina Faso. Now first-team coach at United.

DEFENSIVE MIDFIELD
Tasos Lazaridis
Switched to midfield by Perry after being unable to force his way into the side at centre-back. Capped 152 times by Greece.

CENTRE MIDFIELD
Rodrigo
Known for his pinpoint-accurate passing, he accumulated 84 caps for Brazil. Now a youth coach at European powerhouse Heracles.

CENTRE MIDFIELD
Robson
Midfield partner of Rodrigo, the pair were known by the Brazilian media as "os dois amigos". Still plays semi-professionally in Spain for Ferrol.

STRIKER
Liam Marshall
A £20m summer arrival from United who bagged goals four, five and six in the rout over Madrid.

STRIKER
Dan Allen
Mysteriously only garnered nine caps for England despite 280 league goals for Telford. Currently on Perry's coaching staff at Serie A champions Catania.

STRIKER
Robert Sharpe
Legendary forward who smashed the 60-year-old scoring record with 53 Premier League goals in 2077-78 and was Europe's top scorer in 2078, 2079 and 2080.

THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

Joe Perry
A left-sided midfielder whose playing career ended at the age of 20, Perry managed his hometown side Wimborne from the Conference South to five consecutive Champions League wins. After Wimborne, Perry stunned the football world by leading Cameroon to victory at Mexico '26 and oversaw England's World Cup victories of 2034 and 2038. Built championship-winning sides at Barcelona, Racing Santander and Sheffield United.

Tactics
Concentrating flair and technique in midfield, with raw pace and power up front, and combining it with a relentless, battering-ram approach to attack led to huge wins when Perry's sides were on form (best evidenced in their 11-1 win over Derby in December of 2082), and thrillers when they weren't (best evidenced by the 6-6 draw with United three weeks later).

FM2015 IS OUT NOW IN PC, MACINTOSH AND LINUX FORMATS

FOOTBALL MANAGER 2015

"No one is invincible. Everything has to be deserved"

After opting to take the captaincy away from Thiago Silva and give it to Neymar, Brazil boss Dunga (left) responds to Silva's public claims of betrayal

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Appointments, sackings and loans

IN

On board...Hamm

EUROPE

HENRIK LARSSON stepped down as coach of Falkenberg to take charge of fellow Swedish side Helsingborg, where he had two spells as a player.

ANGHEL IORDANESCU was appointed Romania coach for a third time, following the departure of Victor Piturca. He remains in his role as technical director of the Romanian Football Federation.

Greek international midfielder **SOTIRIS NINIS**, who was released by Italian side Parma in August, returned home and rejoined former club Panathinaikos.

Former France right-back **ANTHONY REVEILLERE**, who went to the 2010 World Cup and played at Euro 2012, joined Sunderland until the end of the season, having left Napoli at the end of last term.

LEONID KUCHUK, who was dismissed by Lokomotiv Moscow in September, was reappointed coach of Kuban Krasnodar after the Russian club sacked Viktor Goncharenko.

IVAN VUKOMANOVIC was appointed permanent coach of Standard Liege after taking over from Guy Luzon in a temporary capacity when the Israeli left the Belgian side in October.

MIA HAMM, the two-time former women's World Player of the Year and arguably the most famous female footballer of all time, has joined the board of Serie A side Roma, along with former ice-hockey star **CAM NEELY**.

ASIA

Chinese switch...Eriksson

Former England manager **SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON** left Guangzhou R&F to take charge of Shanghai Dongya. Italy's 2006 World Cup-winning captain **FABIO CANNAVARO** was appointed "executive head coach" of Chinese champions Guangzhou Evergrande.

Australia striker **JOSH KENNEDY** left Japanese side Nagoya Grampus and will join A-League club Melbourne City in January.

CONCACAF

Former Spain and Real Madrid striker **RAUL** has signed for New York Cosmos and will join the NASL side in the new year.

OUT

Gone...Fossati

EUROPE

Werder Bremen sacked **ROBIN DUTT** with the team bottom of the league after nine games and without a win in their worst-ever start to a Bundesliga campaign.

Trabzonspor parted company with coach **VAHID HALILHODZIC**.

Swedish league runners-up Gothenburg sacked coach **MIKAEL STAHRE** at the end of the season.

DARKO MILANIC, who left Austria's Sturm Graz to join Leeds United, was sacked by the English second-tier side after just 32 days.

STUART MCCALL resigned as boss of Motherwell after five successive Scottish Premiership League defeats.

VASILE MIRIUTA will quit as coach of title-chasing CFR Cluj when the Romanian league season breaks for the winter. **FLAVIUS STOICAN** left Dinamo Bucharest.

Midfielder **BENOIT CHEYROU** had his contract with Ligue 1 side Marseille cancelled, having fallen out of favour since the arrival of coach Marcelo Bielsa.

SOUTH AMERICA

JORGE FOSSATI resigned as coach of Penarol after they lost to Uruguayan rivals Nacional.

ASIA

ADNAN HAMAD was dismissed as coach of Bahrain, two months before the start of the Asian Cup.

Moyes takes on Sociedad challenge in Spain

DAVID MOYES, who was sacked by Manchester United in April after 10 months in charge, has replaced Jagoba Arrasate as coach of La Liga side Real Sociedad.

"This is the biggest challenge of my career," said Moyes. "It is an opportunity to show that British managers can go abroad. There is not an abundance of [those that have] and I have always beaten the drum [about going abroad].

"Hopefully I am the first of many. If I can succeed, maybe it will make it easier for others to do as well."

Spanish steps...Moyes hopes to be a trailblazer

Makelele role at Bastia ends

CLAUDE MAKELELE parted company with Bastia after six months in charge with the club sitting second from bottom in Ligue 1.

The French club's former international striker **DJIBRIL CISSE** says he will retire at the end of the season.

Struggle...Makelele

"The past has shown us that everyone who has tried to change Balotelli has failed"

Italy coach Antonio Conte seems to give up on Mario Balotelli in an interview with RAI

MANAGERS INDEX

The latest rankings of football's most in-demand coaches

1 Diego Simeone

Age: 44
Nationality: Argentinian
Current status: Hugely successful with Atletico Madrid, winning the Spanish Liga and reaching the 2014 Champions League Final.
Past: Won league titles with Estudiantes and River Plate in Argentina, but less successful with San Lorenzo.
Style: Brilliant motivator and organiser.
Future: In contention for "super club" job.

2 Jurgen Klopp

Age: 47
Nationality: German
Current status: Supremo at Borussia Dortmund.
Past: Guided Mainz into Bundesliga for the first time before leaving for Dortmund, who he steered to successive Bundesliga titles in 2011 and 2012, and the 2013 Champions League Final.
Style: Charismatic, bespectacled motivator.
Future: Contracted until 2018 but could be tempted by a really top job.

3 Frank De Boer

Age: 44
Nationality: Dutch
Current status: Led Ajax to a fourth Eredivisie title, a record for a coach.
Past: Ajax youth coach, Holland assistant coach at the 2010 World Cup.
Style: Committed to youth and the Ajax/Barca system of possession-based attack.
Future: Has been linked with Tottenham Hotspur but may set his sights higher.

4 Roberto Martinez

Age: 41
Nationality: Spanish
Current status: Successful first season at Everton.
Past: Took Swansea into the English second tier, guided Wigan to FA Cup.
Style: Progressive and media friendly, but unproven when it comes to spending big money.
Future: Career is on an upward trajectory, so next stop could be a Champions League club.

5 Luciano Spalletti

Age: 55
Nationality: Italian
Current status: Unemployed.
Past: Took Udinese and Roma into the Champions League. Won two Russian league titles with Zenit.
Style: Ambitious, attacking tactics – his Roma played 4-6-0.
Future: A club needing a fresh tactical impetus.

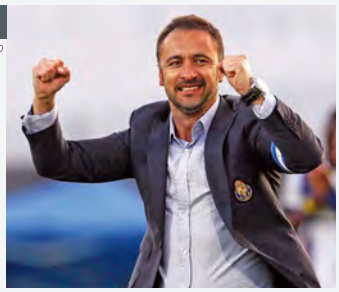
6 Thomas Tuchel

Age: 41
Nationality: German
Current status: Unemployed after leaving Mainz in the summer.
Past: Coach of Mainz for five seasons, during which time the club consistently punched above its weight.
Style: Resourceful, clever tactician, strong motivator.
Future: Won't be out of work for long; he quit Mainz after they refused to release him from his contract.

7 Ralf Rangnick

Age: 56
Nationality: German
Current status: Sporting director at Salzburg and sister club Leipzig.
Past: Worked wonders at Hoffenheim and took Schalke to the Champions League semi-finals in 2011.
Style: Likes his teams to adopt attacking, high-pressing tactics.
Future: A return to frontline coaching.

8 Vitor Pereira



Age: 46
Nationality: Portuguese
Current status: Unemployed after a spell earning petro-dollars in Saudi Arabia with Al Ahli.
Past: Won back-to-back Portuguese league titles with Porto in 2012 and 2013.
Style: Thoughtful, attack-minded, good with young players.
Future: A return to a European league.

Key

EXPERIENCED

SUCCESSFUL

VOLATILE

FORMER PLAYER

YOUNG

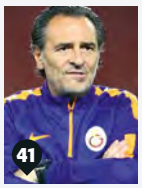
LONG-TERM STRATEGIST

TACTICIAN

AVAILABLE

9 Tony Pulis – unattached
10 Ernesto Valverde – Athletic Bilbao
11 Quique Flores – unattached
12 Roberto Donadoni – Parma
13 Vincenzo Montella – Fiorentina
14 Paul Clement – Real Madrid (asst coach)
15 Martin Jol – unattached
16 Bert Van Marwijk – unattached
17 Elie Baup – unattached
18 Bernd Schuster – unattached

19 Huub Stevens – unattached
20 Pepe Mel – unattached
21 Tony Popovic – W Sydney Wanderers
22 Mario Been – unattached
23 Jesualdo Ferreira – unattached
24 Jorge Jesus – Benfica
25 Lluis Carreras – Mallorca
26 Markus Weinzierl – Augsburg
27 Christophe Galtier – Saint-Etienne
28 Philippe Montanier – Rennes
29 Antoine Kombouare – Lens
30 Sinisa Mihajlovic – Sampdoria
31 Giuseppe Iachini – Palermo
32 Chris Hughton – unattached
33 Erwin Van de Looi – Groningen
34 Javi Gracia – Malaga
35 Michel – Olympiakos
36 Ramon Diaz – unattached



37 Luis Zubeldia – LDU Quito
38 Rene Meulensteen – unattached
39 Lucien Favre – Borussia M'Gladbach
40 Sascha Lewandowski – Leverkusen
41 Cesare Prandelli – Galatasaray
42 Alejandro Sabella – unattached
43 Luigi Di Biagio – Italy U21
44 Eusebio – Barcelona B
45 Julen Lopetegui – Porto
46 Frederic Antonetti – unattached
47 Jose Luis Pinto – unattached
48 Frank Kramer – Greuther Furth

More information on the Index at **worldsoccer.com**

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Premier League clubs meet their match in Europe

Setback...Seydou Doumbia heads the first of his two goals in CSKA Moscow's 2-1 win against City

In the space of two days at the start of November, the pre-eminence of the so-called Premier League was blown to pieces as Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City all failed wretchedly in the Champions League.

Following a paradoxical win in Brussels which they deserved to lose, Arsenal suffered the humiliation of a 3-3 draw at home Anderlecht after they had gone 3-0 ahead, and all was expressed in the dejected look on the face of their irrepressible Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez after the modest Belgians had equalised. Just as in the previous match at home, against Burnley, Sanchez had dazzled, scoring twice. But on this second occasion his 11th goal of the season couldn't save his side.

All very well for Arsene Wenger to lament that Anderlecht's first goal was offside. It probably was, but so what? That still had the Gunners 3-1 in the lead in a match they had previously dominated; the subsequent collapse was pitiful.

Their 2-1 success with those two last-ditch goals in Belgium was a travesty of the truth – as honest Per Mertesacker, the German centre-back admitted afterwards, criticising the team's tactics, its failings and its especial failure to use the flanks.

In retrospect, I wonder whether Burnley's manager, Sean Dyche, was not too fatalistic, even defeatist, when he said after the Premier League game that the likes of his club, who had spent just £6million in the transfer market, simply couldn't hope to compete with such as Arsenal on level terms.

Three days later I think, with respect, that Anderlecht proved this to be nonsense, as indeed they had in Brussels. Only the quick and elusive Danny Ings seemed ready and willing to take the game to Arsenal, and indeed almost on full time he was thwarted only by Wojciech Szczesny's desperate save at his feet. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Bluffs can always be called.

As for Liverpool and Brendan Rodgers, a fusillade of scorn and derision, not least from a contemptuous Spanish press, descended on him after a team packed with reserves held out dourly for a meaningless 1-0 defeat to Real Madrid in the Bernabeu in which they never threatened a goal.

With a game against Chelsea at Anfield imminent, Rodgers evidently decided discretion was the better part of valour, that there was never a chance – which there wasn't – of matching a three-goal deficit from the first game, and consequently put out what largely amounted to a second string.

Once upon a time that famously fluent captain of Northern Ireland and Tottenham, Danny Blanchflower, insisted the game was essentially about glory. In these days of grotesquely well-paid players and colossal transfer fees, I don't think this can generally apply, but when the club is as big and celebrated as Liverpool, with all those European Cups behind it, there must surely be an element of pride and prestige.

In the event, the ersatz Liverpool

team did not disgrace itself. What was besmirched was the club's great tradition. Whatever was going to happen against Chelsea on the following Saturday, Liverpool are never going to win the league. The departure of Luis Suarez made sure of that, compounded by the sad absence of the injured Daniel Sturridge. Qualification for next season's Champions League is a possibility which begins to look increasingly remote. The ultimate charge against Rodgers is that, however narrow the margin of defeat in Madrid, he betrayed a great tradition.

That Manchester City should have flopped and failed at home to CSKA Moscow was, I must confess, the source for me of *schadenfreude*, the German word which means delight in other people's misfortunes. Like Chelsea, City have the immense financial backing which enables them to buy success; though not, embarrassingly, in Europe.

At home to CSKA, they often looked inept. The defence was even less solid than it had been there against Roma and the great big foreign guns of the attack were firing blanks. The defence, committed to the dangerously penetrative tactics of Manuel Pellegrini's 4-4-2, was alarmingly penetrable. Both goals that City conceded came from serious individual mistakes by Gael Clichy and Yaya Toure. That two City players – Fernandinho and Toure – were deservedly sent off had no major effect on the defeat.

> The ultimate charge against Rodgers is that, however narrow the defeat in Madrid, he betrayed a great tradition

As for Chelsea, all-conquering in the Premier League and facile 6-0 winners over little Maribor at Stamford Bridge, how, you wonder, could they ever have failed to beat them in Slovenia? It was a wretched result – and remember that, in the same group, Chelsea could not beat a far-from-formidable Schalke at Stamford Bridge.

So much for the excessive claims for the "Greed Is Good" league.

Money disappearing from Kroenke's Arsenal

It didn't surprise me when, at the recent Arsenal shareholders' annual meeting, it was disclosed that Stan Kroenke, the present owner, or his company, has been paid £3.2m. For a good many months I had been aware, through an insider, that large sums of money were going that way out of the club.

Just why and for what remains, for the moment, obscure. And you wonder what Arsenal's former chairman Peter Hill-Wood thinks about it, though it must be fairly obvious what the billionaire Uzbek-Russian oligarch Alisher Usmanov thinks. He now owns 30 per cent of the shares, though Kroenke has reportedly increased his holding to more than his previous majority. But it seems perfectly clear that Usmanov, whom in present circumstances hasn't a hope of joining the board, would rather put money in than take it out.

As for Hill-Wood, you may remember that some years ago, when the prospect loomed of inviting Kroenke to join the club, he angrily declared this was not the kind of person Arsenal wanted; Hill-Wood being the scion of a rich, distinguished family which from the 1920s onwards had largely dominated on the board. Alas for him, pressure from the board gave Hill-Wood the humiliating task of flying to America and begging Kroenke to come aboard.

Quite why Hill-Wood agreed to go remains a little puzzling. Does he regret it now? Or does he feel his initial opposition justified?

That Arsene Wenger, after the ups and downs of last season, should have been given a new three-year contract made scant sense. Shocking defeats at Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester City would have cost him his job at any major Italian club and probably in Spain. No one can deny his huge achievements at the club, making the ignorant, ill-natured opposition of a bunch of self-important supporters when he arrived in 1996 seem petty and insular. To European football followers, his successes at Monaco, who he took to a French championship, were formidable.

All credit to David Dein, his friend and then Arsenal director, for bringing him to Highbury. At London Colney he would build a deluxe new training complex and his attention to training, and not least to diet, was meticulous.

But he is no Alex Ferguson, who in his long years at Old Trafford never ran out of steam and trophies. By contrast, under Wenger the Gunners, bar that uneasy FA Cup Final victory over Hull City, have won no major trophy for a decade. Certainly Wenger hasn't had the huge sums available like Chelsea and Manchester City with their plutocratic owners, but his transfer policy, save for the glittering acquisition of Alexis Sanchez, has been indifferent, even if it was hardly his fault that he lost the likes of Robin Van Persie and Samir Nasri.

Uneasy alliance...Hill-Wood (right) felt Kroenke was not the sort of man Arsenal wanted on board

World Cup 2022: Qatar bought it, plain and simple

There is, as we know, more joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, and there are signs that Michel Platini is seeing sense at last – at least over Qatar's suspicious acquisition of the 2022 World Cup.

Having initially supported Qatar's bid, the president of UEFA now says that there should be a new vote "if there is some problem of corruption".

There are demands that the tournament be taken away from Qatar owing to the funds that flow from there to terrorism. Any stick to beat the putrescent dog.

But you might as well take the finals away from them over the deaths of hundreds of Nepalese and other construction workers building the new stadiums.

The real reason for disqualifying Qatar is the way they plainly bought it. **WS**

It's all yours...the then Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad, and his wife, Moza, are handed the hosting rights

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SPECIAL REPORT

SEE NO EVIL, SPEAK

The crisis sparked by Michael Garcia's report into the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022

HEAR NO EVIL NO EVIL

World Cups has left Sepp Blatter facing another crisis as FIFA president. Keir Radnedge reports

Timeline: How events unfolded

2011

MAY: FIFA president Sepp Blatter announces a reform programme.

2012

JULY: German Hans-Joachim Eckert and American Michael J Garcia are appointed as chairmen, respectively, of the new adjudicatory and investigative chambers of the independent ethics bureau.

AUGUST: Eckert says that Blatter should clean up the world football body or give way to someone else.

OCTOBER: Najeeb Chirakal, Mohamed Bin Hammam's former personal assistant, suspended for not assisting Garcia's inquiry into the ex-AFC president's cash dealings. He is the first official punished by the new ethics chamber.

2013

JANUARY: Garcia confirms his investigation into potential wrongdoing in the 2018-2022 World Cup bidding.

FEBRUARY: FIFA denies reports that Congress in May will stage a revote on whether to hold the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. ›

It's not been just one "FIFA car crash". It's been a grand prix full of them. At just about every significant twist and turn in the World Cup circuit president Sepp Blatter and his cohorts have bounced from one shunt to another.

Even on the rare occasions which Blatter appeared to be wrenching the car back on the road so one of the wheels would fall off all over again.

Everything came to a head in November when FIFA published German judge Hans-Joachim Eckert's summary of American lawyer Michael Garcia's investigation into the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. Eckert cleared the winning bids from Russia and Qatar of any wrongdoing, prompting Garcia to appeal against his own report.

Amid growing calls for the full publication of Garcia's report – not least from ExCo members Sunil Gulati, Jeffrey Webb and Jim Boyce – FIFA lodged a criminal complaint with the Swiss authorities over the "possible misconduct of individual persons in connection with the awarding of the hosting rights of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup".

Damian Collins, an MP who has campaigned for FIFA reform and in 2011 used Parliamentary privilege to make allegations that bribes helped secure the World Cup for Qatar, said of the report: "It is a whitewash. FIFA has investigated itself and not surprisingly found itself not guilty."

DOUBLE DECISION

Back in May 2008, the executive committee decided, perfectly sensibly, to make an early decision on the 2018 host. Then, motivated by the twin goals of money and marketing, the ExCo took the fateful decision to run the 2022 campaign simultaneously.

How Jack Warner and Ricardo Teixeira and Julio Grondona and Mohamed Bin Hammam must have struggled to contain their delight. Right there is evidence of how Blatter was not their master but their servant. As president he could have seen the danger and shunted the idea off for study by yet another taskforce while he manoeuvred a way out of danger.

The fact that Blatter did not says either a great deal about the manner in which the powerful confederation bosses controlled FIFA or about his critical failure to understand what was around the corner. He had no illusions about the most powerful members of his ExCco. The most he has ever admitted since then was to say: "It seemed like a good idea at the time."

Running two bids threw the door wide open to political vote-trading and offered tempting opportunities for the less-scrupulous members who packed the ExCo at that time. Nigeria's Amos Adamu and Oceania president Reynald Temarii were suspended before the vote after being caught, by *The Sunday Times*, offering their votes for sale.

Bin Hammam, then the Asian confederation president, asked in bemusement (which said everything about the culture of omnipotence): "Why are these journalists allowed to write such things?" Not: "Why are our colleagues betraying us, FIFA and football...?"

A string of other influence-seeking escapades were undertaken ranging from handbag gifts (to ExCo members' wives by England) to massive promotion expenditure (by Qatar) to over-generous gifts (Japan) to a "global vision" of South Korea. Above all, the likes of Warner – Trinidadian president of CONCACAF – opened up their need for development support with such coquetish allure that the likes of England and Australia fell head-first in love.

Not that they were alone, though they have been picked out in the wake of the Eckert summary. The Qatari Football

Victor...Hassan Al Thawadi (third left) of Qatar's World Cup organising committee

> "Choosing Qatar was clearly one of the most ludicrous decisions in the history of sport"
> Former FA Chairman David Bernstein

Timeline: How events unfolded

FIFA reformer Mark Pieth says his first choice for Garcia's role, war-crimes prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, had been vetoed by FIFA vice-president Julio Grondona in league with Argentina's state president, Cristina Kirchner. Pieth says his two next choices, including Scotland Yard commander Sue Akers, were blocked because senior ExCo members refused to be policed by a woman.

FIFA launches an anti-corruption hotline.

MARCH: Transparency International's Sylvia Schenk questions Garcia's "lack of rigour" over the bidding scandal.

SEPTEMBER: Australian football chairman Frank Lowy says FIFA should refund all costs to the 2022 bid losers.

2014

MARCH: Garcia turns up in Zurich, seeking to question all members of the ExCo who voted on Russia and Qatar. In addition to president Sepp Blatter, this meant vice-presidents Julio Grondona (Argentina), Issa Hayatou (Cameroon), Angel Villar (Spain), Michel Platini (France) and members Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium), Senes Erzik (Turkey), Worawi Makudi (Thailand), Marios Lefkaritis (Cyprus), Jacques Anouma (Ivory Coast), Rafael Salguero (Guatemala), Hany Abo Rida (Egypt) and Vitaly Mutko (Russia).

An attempt by senior members of the ExCo to suspend the Garcia inquiry is halted in its tracks after newer members threaten to quit.

Association ran a high-visibility coaching event at the South Africa World Cup in 2010 with Pep Guardiola, then of Barcelona, as the star attraction. Nothing to do with the Qatar bid, of course. Just coincidence.

In many ways such sideshows helped exacerbate the insidious undercurrent that the surface events of the bid battle hid an ocean of murky depths.

Initially bidding on both World Cups was open to everyone. Only as the campaign progressed was it resolved that 2018 should be about Europe (Belgium/Holland, England, Portugal/Spain and Russia) and 2022 about the rest of the world, minus Africa and South America (Australia, Japan, Qatar, South Korea and United States).

Again, on the face of it commonsense. But also a gift of a system in which vote-trading would become inevitable with many of the candidates working hard on the persuasive whispers: "If you vote for us for 2018 then we'll vote for you for 2022." Official vote-trading was not permitted. But, again as Blatter conceded: "Most of the countries have members on the ExCo. Of course they talk to each other."

Unofficially, Portugal/Spain agreed a deal with Qatar. Portugal/Spain was a key target because it would almost certainly bring on board the three South American votes. Doubtless it also probably suited movers and shakers with business interests in common such as old pals Ricardo Teixeira and the Barcelona president Sandro Rosell (Barcelona on the way to their record-breaking Qatar Foundation sponsorship).

On December 2, 2010, in Zurich the FIFA executive committee voted that Russia should be awarded 2018 and Qatar should stage 2022.

Russia's preparations have been entirely overshadowed by the multiple issues raised about Qatar from the climate (and hence the timing), to labour conditions and political concerns (over the Gulf state's links with Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas which controls strife-torn Gaza).

All this has been laced with multiple corruption scandals involving Warner and the then CONCACAF general secretary Chuck Blazer (also an ExCo member), Bin Hamman and Teixeira.

In the meantime, Qatari influence in elite European football has been buttressed by the purchase of French →

The key figures

MICHAEL J GARCIA: Was appointed in July 2012 as the first investigator/prosecutor of the new FIFA independent ethics chamber. The former US Attorney for the southern district of New York made his name as prosecutor of the disgraced ex-New York governor, Eliot Spitzer. He also led investigations into white-collar fraud, international terrorism and national security issues. Brought up and educated in New York, he was also Americas vice-president of INTERPOL. He was barred from entering Russia in a tit-for-tat retaliation after Russian state auditor Sergei Magnitsky had alleged massive corruption by state officials.

HANS-JOACHIM ECKERT: Was appointed in July 2012 as the first adjudicatory judge of the new FIFA independent ethics chamber. The Bavarian judge had spent 30 years working his way up through the German judicial system and has been senior presiding judge of the Munich I court dealing with corruption, tax fraud and financial crime since 2003. Before that he spent four years as a senior prosecutor over issues of financial wrongdoing, war crimes, organised crime and money laundering.

Disgraced FIFA ExCo members

AMOS ADAMU (Nigeria):
Banned for three years, 2010
MOHAMED BIN HAMMAM (Qatar, ex-AFC president):
Banned for life, 2012
CHUCK BLAZER (US, ex-CONCACAF general secretary):
Resigned, 2013
VERNON MANILAL FERNANDO (Sri Lanka):
Banned for life, 2013
RICARDO TEIXEIRA (Brazil)
Resigned, 2012
REYNALD TEMARII (Tahiti, ex-Oceania president):
Banned for 12 months, 2010
JACK WARNER (Trinidad, ex-CONCACAF president):
Resigned, 2011

Disgraced...former CONCACAF president and ExCo member Warner

Support...Guardiola in South Africa

APRIL:
Jerome Valcke, FIFA's secretary-general, says he hopes Garcia hastens to publish his report, ideally before the World Cup in Brazil because "we need to be able to work in an environment which is, let's say, a safe one".

JUNE:
Allegations about secret payments ahead of Qatar's 2022 World Cup bid success are unearthed by *The Sunday Times*. The paper says it has millions of secret documents – emails, letters and bank transfers – linking the disgraced former Asia president and FIFA ExCo member Bin Hammam to $5million-worth of payments to officials, mainly in Africa. Qatar's World Cup organisers deny any wrongdoing.

Garcia says he will send his World Cup awards report to FIFA judge Eckert a fortnight after the 2014 final in Brazil.

Michel Platini says a re-vote on the 2022 World Cup should be undertaken if Garcia comes up with hard evidence of corruption.

Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah, who is one of the most powerful figures in the Olympic movement, as president of the both the Association of National Olympic Committees and of the Olympic Council of Asia, accuses Qatar's critics of "racist actions".

Franz Beckenbauer, the greatest player in German history, is banned for 90 days by Garcia for refusing to answer questions about his time on the ExCo including the 2018-2022 vote. ›

↑ Investigators... Garcia (left) and Eckert

KEY QUESTIONS

Why is Germany opposed?
German league president Reinhard Rauball has said that FIFA's mismanagement of the entire issue means European nations might consider withdrawing from the world federation altogether. His criticism has been supported by Christian Seifert, chief executive of the Bundesliga. The only German delegate on the FIFA ExCo is Theo Zwanziger, former DFB president and who has been largely disowned by his own federation.

Why did Eckert dismiss whistleblowers as unreliable?
Eckert largely dismissed, in his summary, evidence and documentation provided by two former employees sacked by the Australian and Qatar bids respectively: Bonita Mersiades and Phaedra Almajid. Mersiades's evidence concerned the manner in which the Australian bid had used development support to curry favour with then CONCACAF president Jack Warner; Almajid's evidence concerned financial lures to Africa and South American officials – though this was based on her retraction of a previous retraction.

Both women launched an ethics complaint about having been identified by Eckert when they had been promised confidentiality by Garcia. Eckert did not name them (though their names were well known to the international media) but referred to them in terms which made them easily indentifiable through simple internet inquiry.

Wht did Garcia ignore the evidence uncovered by *The Sunday Times*?
The Sunday Times published evidence of corruption by Qatari Mohamed Bin Hamman in the run-up to the vote on 2022. But none of their findings was considered by Garcia.

Why was the Spain/Portugal bid not mentioned in Eckert's summer report?
One of the key allegations against the Qatar 2022 bid was that of collusion with the Spain/Portugal 2018 bid. Yet Spain/Portugal is not mentioned by Eckert's summary report.

→ champions Paris Saint-Germain, sponsorship of Barcelona and the ever-increasing rights reach of TV channel Al Jazeera.

And so it was amid a firestorm of criticism that Blatter presented himself for re-election at the 2011 FIFA Congress. Bin Hammam had plotted to oust him. But the Qatari had been debarred from standing after accusations of vote-buying at a Caribbean Football Union conference along his campaign trail.

Hence Blatter, though forced to commit himself to reform, was duly re-elected for a fourth term. His last term, he said.

ENTER GARCIA

Garcia was not the first choice for the job of FIFA's first independent investigator. Indeed, he was not on the original list of several preferences compiled by Mark Pieth, the Basle governance expert summoned by president Sepp Blatter to lead the reform project enforced on him.

Top of the list was Luis Moreno Ocampo, the Argentinian war crimes prosecutor. But that was far too close to home for the late Julio Grondona, the Argentinian football dictator who was then FIFA's vice-president. He and state President Cristina Kirchner shut the door.

Two internationally-respected women were next in line but they were vetoed through endemic chauvinism. This was when the name of Garcia entered the frame: an American attorney with a track record for pursuing criminality and with an international outlook through his role as Americas vice-president of the police co-ordinator INTERPOL.

Garcia was a natural "fit" since FIFA already had a close relationship with INTERPOL through the football authority's investment in an anti-corruption centre in Singapore.

But Pieth's idea went beyond mere investigation. He believed that FIFA could regain a thread of credibility by replacing the old, too-cosy, disciplinary with an independent twin-chamber system.

Garcia would chair the investigatory operation with the Bavarian judge Eckert, heading the adjudicatory side. This made Garcia subservient, to some extent, to Eckert which signalled a rocky road ahead.

Garcia and Eckert arrived at FIFA before the world federation had resolved the long-running ISL scandal – never mind the World Cup voting farrago.

↓ Ultimate prize...the World Cup

ISL had been marketing partner of FIFA from 1982 until its criminal bankruptcy in 2001 and only media pressure had eventually shamed the world federation into publishing the document confirming the "secret" deal by which Brazilians Joao Havelange and Teixeira bought off the Swiss prosecutors over around $20m worth of TV contract bribes.

Garcia took on board from the outset

Timeline: How events unfolded

Qatar's World Cup organisers issue a lengthy statement reiterating its insistence that Bin Hammam had no connection with the bid. Newspaper allegations are, they say, "not an attempt to shine light on the 2018-2022 bidding process [but] a flagrant attempt to prejudice an ongoing independent investigation".

Beckenbauer has his ban lifted after agreeing to answer Garcia's questions

JULY:
Garcia now says his report will not go to Eckert until September

SEPTEMBER:
Garcia hands up his 430-page report (with 20,000 pages of supporting documentation) to Eckert and deputy Alan Sullivan. A section of the report, concerning both Russia (from which Garcia is banned) and the United States (of which he is a citizen) was compiled by deputy Cornel Borbely.

As a distraction from the 2018-2022 bid scandal, Garcia raises further controversy by demanding that expensive watches handed out to FIFA and other officials by the Brazilian confederation be handed in.

Eckert says he will not make any decisions on the Garcia report before November at the earliest. Eckert says: "Only four men have seen Garcia's report".

Garcia joins a swelling chorus, including some ExCo members, in demanding full publication of his report.

OCTOBER:
Garcia, addressing the American Bar Association in London, says FIFA needs a leadership wedded to the concept of full transparency if it wishes to restore its reputation with the wider football family and the public at large.

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an investigation into the World Cup bid scandal though this appeared to gather speed only over the last 18 months as pressure was maintained on Qatar over various different issues. Simultaneously, *The Sunday Times* ran its own investigation into the financial dealings of Bin Hammam and his links with Warner.

The two had initially been suspended from FIFA activity in the spring of 2011 after cash bribes were offered to delegates attending a Caribbean Football Union conference organised by Warner in support of Bin Hammam.

Bin Hammam was president of the Asian Football Confederation up until, effectively, the summer of 2011. He had supported Sepp Blatter, financially and with use of his private jet, for the FIFA presidency in 1998 and 2002 but had done so on the understanding that the Swiss former general secretary would then retire and leave the way free for him.

When Blatter decided to stay on so Bin Hammam began to work up his own candidacy and – as *The Sunday Times* investigations have purported to show – spread his largesse far and wide, particularly in Africa. His campaign was then halted days before the 2011 congress election by bribery allegations.

Bin Hammam was charged by FIFA with ethics breaches and banned from the game for life. He had an appeal upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport but Garcia, now in control of the ethics brief, pursued him over misuse of AFC funds and secured a new life ban.

This was important because it showed that Garcia was ready to pursue anyone within the ExCo and he followed up with action against another ExCo member in the Sri Lankan Vernon Manilal Fernando and other associates of Bin Hammam. In the case of Fernando, Eckert banned the ExCo member for eight years; Garcia appealed and "won" a life ban.

By now, Garcia's 2018-2022 investigation was well-advanced. He handed over his report in September 2014, so that Eckert could generate his own summary.

In fact Eckert was reluctant to produce any interim statement at all and did so merely to head off the weight of pressure from both some ExCo members and the media for publication of the entire report – which would have meant betraying the guarantees of confidentiality under which exco members and other officials and former officials had given evidence.

The problem with Eckert's summary was not so much what it did say – clearing Russia and Qatar of major wrongdoing – but what it did not say. That was what prompted Garcia into an appeal against Eckert's 42-page review.

This led to a "peace" meeting and further clarification that disciplinary action and criminal authority reference had been undertaken against persons unidentified. Domenico Scala, the Swiss businessman with wide-ranging access as chairman of the audit and compliance committee, must now decide how much of the original report can be shown to the ExCo.

Meanwhile, FBI inquiries continue into the financial affairs of Warner and Chuck Blazer, his long-serving general-secretary on CONCACAF and who had also been a member of the FIFA executive as well as chairman of the world federation's TV and marketing committee. Blazer had been an advocate for, and supporter of, the decision to run the two 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids simultaneously. He was ultimately forced out by the Simmons report which laid bare the extent to which Warner and Blazer had profited personally from CONCACAF's affairs.

Watch this space...

THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST QATAR

Direct allegations against the Qatar bid were made by *The Sunday Times* in summer 2014 in a series of reports that Mohamed Bin Hammam lavished money and favours on senior football officials, mostly in Africa.

Despite protests from Qatar bid officials that Bin Hammam was not directly connected with the official bidding process, *The Sunday Times* published emails that showed close co-operation between Bin Hammam and senior Qatar officials.

France Football magazine published allegations that the family of Mario Leftatrikis, the FIFA ExCo member from Cyprus, benefited from the £27million sale of land to a Qatari company shortly after the 2022 vote.

Further precise criticisms have focused on FIFA's decision in awarding the World Cup at all to a tiny country with no football tradition, with a near slave-labour construction employment system... and with searing summer temperatures.

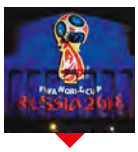
> "As a serious organisation, we [Germany] no longer feel represented by this FIFA, we no longer feel that we are a member"
> Bundesliga chief executive Christian Seifert

Power...former allies Bin Hammam and Blatter

Timeline: How events unfolded

NOVEMBER: An investigation by New York's *Daily News* claims that Chuck Blazer, once one of the most powerful men in the world federation, was wired by the FBI for a series of meetings with leading football figures at the London Olympic Games in 2012.

Eckert delivers his 42-page interim summary of Garcia's report. He clears Russia and Qatar to



go ahead with their hosting of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. Any ethics breaches were "of very limited scope". Some individuals may face disciplinary action but the Qatar bid "did not compromise the integrity of FIFA World Cup bidding process as a whole".

The one caveat about Russia is that all its bid office computers had since been destroyed so any potential trail of evidence concerning their bid has been lost. The Russians had been the most obstructive to the inquiry though there was little other evidence of wrongdoing. Eckert insists there is no proven link between Qatar's bidding success and the activities of Bin Hammam. Other bidders also came in from criticism, including England and Australia.

Garcia registers an appeal against the "numerous materially incomplete and erroneous representations of the facts and conclusions" in Eckert's summary. This leads to the entire exercise, and Eckert's role, being questioned.

Garcia and Eckert agree that audit chairman Domenico Scala should be handed the report to evaluate what might be set before the FIFA ExCo.

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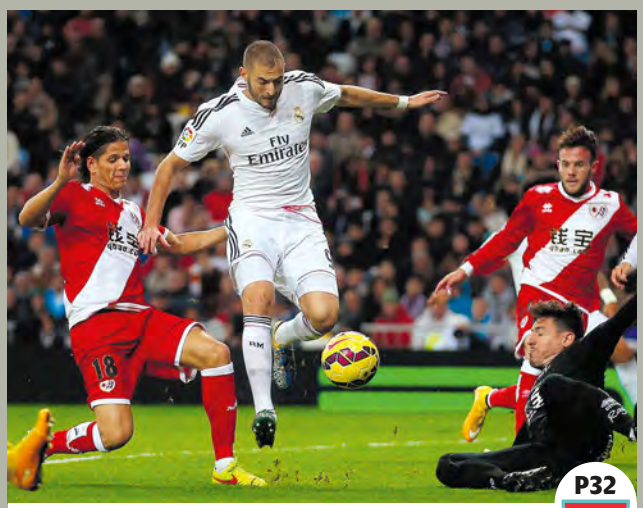


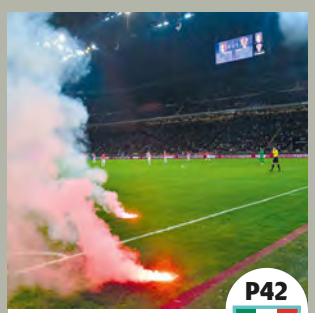
SPAIN P32
After a slow start to the season, Real Madrid are up and running – and ready to take on the rest of world.

SOUTH AFRICA P36
The murder of national captain and goalkeeper Senzo Meyiwa.

BRAZIL P37
The controversy over last term's relegation battle.

AUSTRALIA P38
Western Sydney Wanderers make history in the Champions League.

N IRELAND P40
Euro 2016 finals are still in sight for national team.



ITALY P42
Hooliganism returns on the national stage – as does Mancini.

GREECE P44
Ranieri pays the price for poor results in qualifying campaign.

GERMANY P46
Pressure is on Klopp for the first time as Borussia Dortmund flirt with the drop zone.

P48
FIJI
The under-20s are the country's first team to reach the finals of a world tournament.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA P50
Domestic and national game remains blighted by the country's ethnic divisions.

SID LOWE
in Madrid

Ancelotti's A-listers step up a gear

Real Madrid will travel to the Club World Cup in imperious form

"I don't know why everyone is so anxious," said Carlo Ancelotti. It was the afternoon before Real Madrid's fourth game of the season and "anxious" was an understatement. It was only 100 days and just seven games since Madrid had won their 10th European Cup. They had waited over a decade for it but it seemed to have been forgotten already. And instead of still enjoying the glory, you could be forgiven for thinking that they were teetering on the edge of a crisis.

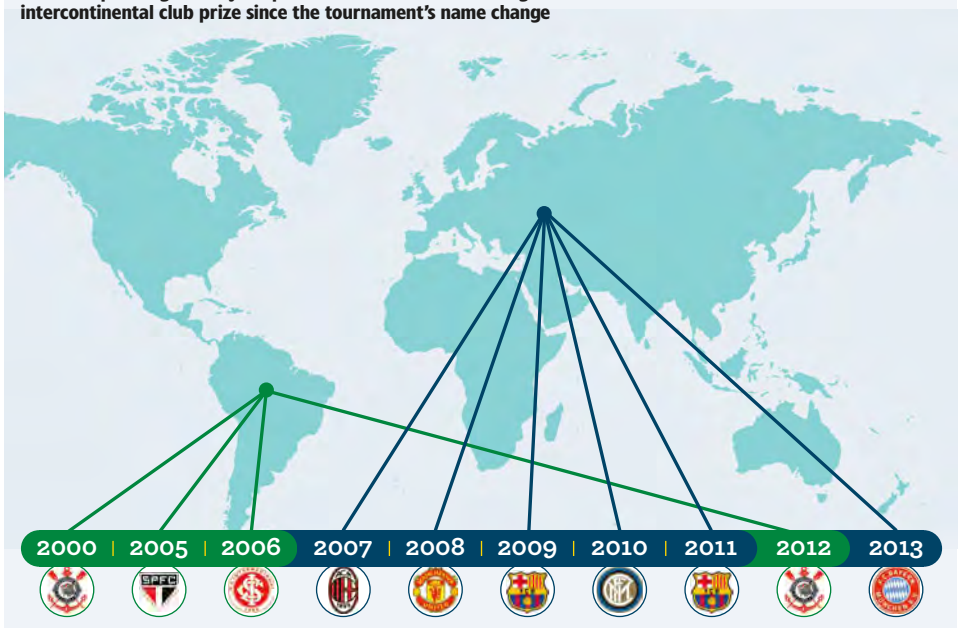
True, Madrid had just beaten Basle 5-0, but that did not impress people much. They had lost the Spanish Super Cup to Atletico Madrid and already lost twice in the league, to Atletico Madrid and Real Sociedad. Goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas had described things as "horrible", adding: "We can't go on like this." Their only victory had been a flat, uninspiring 2-0 win over bottom-of-the-table Cordoba and they trailed Barcelona by six points after just three games. No one had conceded more goals.

"Crisis!" cheered the headline in the Barcelona-based sports daily *El Mundo Deportivo*. "The worst Madrid," gloated their Catalan colleagues *Sport*. Madrid were 13th. Xabi Alonso had gone to Bayern Munich and Angel Di Maria had left for Manchester United. "Suicide" ran one headline. The president, Florentino Perez, was under pressure, with fingers pointing his way. He, meanwhile, blamed others. Up in the boardroom, the whispers went round: Ancelotti, a manager the president had never truly believed in, wasn't going to make it to Christmas.

But if everyone else was anxious, Ancelotti was not. Or at least he wasn't showing it. The following night Madrid scored eight against Deportivo La Coruna and three days later they put five past Elche to go with the five against Basle. They had scored 18 goals in a week. And

CLUB WORLD CUP: BALANCE OF POWER

How Europe has gradually eclipsed South America in winning the intercontinental club prize since the tournament's name change



Change...Benzema, in action against Rayo Vallecano, has won over his critics

so it began. Over the next six league games Madrid's goals-for tally read: 2, 5, 5, 3, 4, 5.

In that run, they went to Anfield and destroyed Liverpool, then beat Barcelona. If there had been some doubts – of the teams they had beaten in the league until then, only Villarreal were in the top half – they were blown away with victory in the *clasico* and in Liverpool. So were most of their opponents. Against Barcelona, Madrid did not just take the points, they took the ball too. They had not beaten Barcelona by more than one goal in the league for seven years. And the 3-1 scoreline could have been bigger too.

When Madrid defeated Rayo Vallecano 5-1, it put them on 42 league goals for the season, just 11 weeks in. They're now on course for 145 league goals. Before the game, Cristiano Ronaldo offered the ESM Golden Shoe to the fans. It is difficult to imagine anyone else winning it next year; he scored again, meaning that he has now scored in every home league game for a year. He is on course for 66 league goals.

"It's hard to talk about Ronaldo," Ancelotti admitted. "I don't know what to say any more."

And it is not just Ronaldo. In the build-up to the game there had been doubts over whether Gareth Bale should be included in the team. After all, they had played so well without him. Eight minutes into the game, he scored.

All across the team, Madrid are performing superbly.

Ancelotti had been forced to reshape the team after the departures of Alonso and Di Maria, having already been forced to redesign it last year following Sami Khedira's injury. But, yet again, he had succeeded. He had the machine running like never before. It helped that the talent at his disposal may never have been matched at club level, but the application still surprised.

Ancelotti insisted he had a "unique group of professionals" but he, too, must take credit. James Rodriguez has adapted to a role in which his responsibility rose. Isco, the artist, sacrifices himself. Luka Modric and Toni Kroos have taken control of the middle of the pitch. Sergio Ramos, Pepe and Raphael Varane are Spain's best three central defenders. Dani Carvajal will surely be Spain's regular right-back for years. And even Karim Benzema's greatest critics have come round. He was named La Liga Player of the Month for October; he had been even better in Europe.

It had been some month. Madrid had scored 13, conceded just 1. The doubts had been forgotten, the departed players too. Or perhaps not: one headline gleefully declared Kroos to be even better than Alonso. The German was not really a deep-lying midfielder but he had made the position his own and the statistics showed it, one sports daily insisted. He'd had more shots, more passes, more assists and more goals than Alonso. Ancelotti called him "*el profesor*", the teacher. *Marca* mocked him up with glasses and a cardigan. "You like my new look?" Kroos asked. "Thanks Mister Ancelotti for the compliment and thanks *Marca* for the picture."

A headline summed Madrid up: "Silk." They controlled games completely and there was a smooth brilliance about them. There is a huge variety to their play now; fast or slow, direct or elaborate, and always effective. They defend well, attack well and play well. It is hard to see a weakness; there's something ominous about them.

Even off the pitch, it feels as if they are unstoppable. These are days of wine and roses. A deal was announced with the Abu Dhabi-based International Petroleum Investment Company that will help them to develop the Bernabeu and another soon followed with Microsoft.

One La Liga manager blew out his cheeks and rolled his eyes. "Hmm, yeah, that'll be fun," he replied when asked about his side's forthcoming trip to the Bernabeu.

> "That's how good Madrid are; one of the best I have ever seen" Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers after his side's loss to Real

He is not alone. So complete had the victory at Anfield been that Liverpool left the Bernabeu a week later having taken four shots to Madrid's 27 and yet did so satisfied at a 1-0 defeat that Brendan Rodgers said had given them confidence. "That's how good Madrid are; one of the best I have ever seen," Rodgers claimed. The debate has been served. Could this be the best team they have had?

Results will be the judge of that, of course. No one has retained the Champions League but Madrid may well be the best equipped to do so.

First, though, there are other targets. Just after the win over Barcelona, Casillas announced the aim was to climb to the top of the table before Christmas and to win the Club World Cup. Madrid will travel to Morocco as favourites. What even Casillas might not have expected was for them to travel there as leaders already. The very next week, Barcelona's defeat by Celta Vigo put Ancelotti's team top. It is early still but it is also hard to imagine them relinquishing that position now.

There was bad news, though. During the international break, Modric suffered a thigh injury that means he will miss the Club World Cup and could be out for three months. So important had Modric been, so central to the control the team is exercising, the smooth creativity that has come to characterise them, that not so long ago his absence might have caused huge anxiety. But then anxiety isn't Ancelotti's thing. WS

Driving force...Ancelotti has Real Madrid running in top gear

Club World Cup: the teams

Auckland City (NZ)

The Oceania champions and part-timers will be competing in their fourth successive Club World Cup. They have only won two games, both in 2009, in five previous tournaments.

Key man
Ivan Vicelich
Veteran defender and New Zealand's most-capped international, he is still the main man for his club at the age of 38.

Coach
Ramon Tribulietx
The Spaniard who has been in charge since 2010.

Cruz Azul (Mex)

The club from Mexico City won the CONCACAF regional title for a record sixth time last April.

Key man
Marco Fabian
Hugely talented midfield playmaker who has regained his mojo while on loan from Guadalajara and has been linked again with a move to Europe.

Coach
Luis Fernando Tena
Olympic gold-medal winning coach, back at Cruz Azul for a fourth spell after a brief period as national coach last year.

Moghreb Tetouan (Mor)

Reigning Moroccan league champions from the northern coastal city of Tetouan. Wear the colours of Atletico Madrid after being founded by a group of "Atleti" fans in the 1920s.

Key man
Zouhair Naim
Top scorer in Morocco last season.

Coach
Aziz El Amri
Was linked with the position of Moroccan national coach after guiding Moghreb to the title in 2012 and 2014.

Real Madrid (Spa)

The 10-times European champions won the Intercontinental Cup – the forerunner of the Club World Cup – on three occasions: in 1960, 1998 and 2002.

Key man
Cristiano Ronaldo
The outstanding player in club football in 2014, his goals played a key role in Madrid securing "*la decima*".

Coach
Carlo Ancelotti
The Italian is a master at managing the egos on and off the pitch. The May 2014 triumph was his third European Cup win, matching the achievement of Bob Paisley.

San Lorenzo (Arg)

The Buenos Aires club, famous for counting the Pope among their supporters, became the last of Argentina's "Big Five" to win the Libertadores Cup when they defeated Nacional of Paraguay earlier this year.

Key man
Nestor Ortigoza
The vital cog in a powerful midfield, he scored the crucial penalty in this year's Libertadores Final.

Coach
Edgardo Bauza
Experienced boss who has already competed at the Club World Cup after winning the 2008 Libertadores with LDU Quito of Ecuador.

Veteran keeper...Covic

ES Setif (Alg)

Won the African Champions League but almost did not enter due to concerns over a lack of competitiveness.

Key man
El Hedi Belameiri
The 23-year-old midfielder was joint-top scorer in the 2014 African Champions League campaign.

Coach
Kheireddine Madoui
At 41, the youngest coach to win the African Champions League, he had only been in the job for four months.

Western Sydney Wanderers (Aus)

Asian club champions whose rise from nowhere has been nothing short of extraordinary. See *Dispatches*, page 38.

Key man
Ante Covic
The goalkeeper may be 39 but he's in peak form and was man of the match in the Asian Champions League Final.

Coach
Tony Popovic
Has proved an adept appointment in his first managerial role.

Playmaker...Fabian

MATCH 1 – PLAY-OFF
10 DECEMBER - RABAT
MOGHREB TETOUAN v AUCKLAND CITY

MATCH 2 – QUARTER FINALS
13 DECEMBER - RABAT
WINNER MATCH 1 v ES SETIF

MATCH 3
13 DECEMBER - RABAT
CRUZ AZUL v W. SYDNEY WANDERERS

MATCH 4 – 5th PLACE PLAY-OFF
17 DECEMBER - MARRAKESH
LOSER MATCH 2 v LOSER MATCH 3

MATCH 5 – SEMI FINALS
17 DECEMBER - MARRAKESH
WINNER MATCH 2 v SAN LORENZO

MATCH 6
16 DECEMBER - RABAT
WINNER MATCH 3 v REAL MADRID

MATCH 7 – 3rd PLACE PLAY-OFF
20 DECEMBER - MARRAKESH
LOSER MATCH 5 v LOSER MATCH 6

MATCH 8 – FINAL
20 DECEMBER - MARRAKESH
WINNER MATCH 5 v WINNER MATCH 6

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MARK GLEESON
in Cape Town

Nation mourns murdered captain

Popular keeper gunned down during botched robbery

Tribute...the 27-year-old's funeral was broadcast live in South Africa, on several television channels

A near capacity crowd at Durban's Moses Mabhida Stadium, built for the 2010 World Cup finals, came to say farewell to Senzo Meyiwa, the South Africa captain and goalkeeper needlessly slain in a botched robbery attempt.

It was a mark of his charisma, combined with the revulsion at his violent death – which was symbolic of the continuing, needless spilling of blood in a criminally-violent country where 17,000 murders were recorded for the 12-month period up to April.

Meyiwa had been visiting the home of his mistress' mother, and hanging out with friends, when two gunmen burst into the house demanding cash, watches and mobile phones. One of Meyiwa's friends struggled with an attacker and a shot went off, striking the Orlando Pirates player in the chest. He died minutes later as he was rushed to a nearby hospital, with his assailants having fled on foot.

Armed robbery with deadly consequences is an all too common occurrence, particularly in the poverty-ridden black townships in and around Johannesburg and other major cities.

The fact that Meyiwa had been serving as captain of the South African national team and contributed some recent man-of-the-match performances as the country went top of their African Nations Cup qualifying group meant his death came as a huge shock. It brought home the vulnerability of all to the ravages of violent crime; for everyone, not just the average man in the street.

At 27-year-old Meyiwa was in the form of his career. He had been a major contributory factor to his club reaching the Final of the 2013 African Champions League and emerged as back-up for the national-team's first choice, Itumeleng Khune of arch-rivals Kaizer Chiefs.

When Khune suffered a serious foot injury in August, Meyiwa stepped into the void, not only as the country's goalkeeper but also as its captain.

His was a bubbly personality, much beloved of the fans who he often used to turn to behind his goal and encourage into song and cheers with the flapping of his arms. When he was first appointed as stand-in skipper, new coach Ephraim Mashaba said he would be rotating the armband. But after the first two games, Meyiwa was such a popular choice that he stayed as captain.

South Africa had won twice away in their first four Nations Cup qualifiers but played out goalless draws in their two home games. Meyiwa had not conceded any goals, having come up with a string of vital saves in October's difficult 2-0 away win over Congo.

Meyiwa won seven caps in total and several domestic honours with Pirates, including league and cup winners medals and a runners-up berth in the Champions League. He had been at the club since the age of 13, joining their academy in Johannesburg from his home in Durban.

Like many of the high-profile players with the big Soweto clubs he was also something of a social celebrity and tabloid fodder, married with a child but conducting an open affair with an actress, with whom he had another baby, and at whose mother's house he was killed. Newspaper revelations since his death have uncovered a third child with another woman.

But his philandering ways were barely mentioned and there was little dissent at his being granted a quasi-state funeral, an occasion of staid reverence spoilt by fans in the stadium blowing on vuvuzelas at parts of the service and the inevitable drone of speeches from politicians eager to be seen. It was broadcast live across several South African channels. WS

Fans favourite... Pirates keeper Meyiwa was hugely popular

> "We must take those guns to the furnace and build a statue for Senzo Meyiwa"
>
> **President of the South African Football Association, Danny Jordaan, calls for firearms to be handed in and melted down**

TIM VICKERY
in Rio de Janeiro

The price of staying up

Controversy still surrounds the dramatic finale to last season's relegation battle

Cock-up or corruption? That is the question still being aired over the controversy that blighted the 2013 Brazilian championship. With one game to go, Portuguesa, a club from Sao Paulo with a dwindling support base, appeared to have made themselves safe from relegation. But, in their final, apparently meaningless match against Gremio, they brought on a substitute, Heverton, who should have been serving a suspension. They were docked three points, plus the one they picked up from a draw with Gremio – and that was enough to send them tumbling down the table and into the relegation zone.

A year on they are continuing to tumble. They have now been relegated to the third division, are playing in front of tiny crowds, and may even be on the point of selling their stadium, Caninde, one of the best-located grounds in the city – and all because of a foolish administrative slip made by a club who were so busy celebrating their first division survival that they took their eye off the ball.

Portuguesa's relegation this season will see them play in Serie C next term for the first time in their 94-year history

There are suspicions, however, that the selection of Heverton was the consequence of something more sinister. It appears that e-mails from the CBF, Brazil's FA, to Portuguesa informing them of Heverton's suspension were opened by someone at the club. Yet the match-information pack handed over to the coach made no mention of the player's ineligibility.

The case has been taken up by Sao Paulo's Public Ministry, a group of independent prosecutors who form part of the Brazilian state. One of their members, prosecutor Roberto Senise, has strong suspicions that people connected with Portuguesa were bribed to ensure, or at least facilitate, the selection of Heverton. The sums being talked about range from nearly £1million to a figure four times as high.

Too much has probably been banded around too early; that is certainly the thinking of the Public Ministry's organised crime squad, who have now taken over the case. They issued a statement lamenting the amount of public speculation on the affair, which they worry might have a negative effect on the investigation.

It is hardly surprising, though, that tongues are wagging.

This has the potential to turn into an enormous scandal because the key question is: if bribery on such a scale took place, where did the money come from?

The club who most directly benefited from Portuguesa's relegation were Fluminense, the 2012 champions, who had a torrid time the following year and would have gone down had Portuguesa not been docked those four points.

Fluminense are the traditional club of the Rio elite and wield considerable political power – which has been used in the past to save them from relegation. But, financially dependent on their sponsors, it is not clear how the club could have come up with the sort of money which may allegedly have changed hands.

Fluminense president Peter Siemsen has called for the sports justice system to carry out a full investigation. He sees his club as a victim of the whole affair, since the suspicions aroused have damaged the name of the institution.

Fluminense's neighbours, Rio giants Flamengo, were also in danger, after they themselves fielded an ineligible player. But they, too, are currently hard up. And anyway, the timeline of events would have made it very difficult. Portuguesa's current board – the administration changed at the end of 2013 – said that they had no doubt Flamengo were not involved.

The key, of course, is in the money trail. If large-scale bribery has taken place, then there is the possibility of tracking the progress of the cash as it changed hands. Some prosecutors, though, have privately expressed doubts that they will be able to do this, since the money would probably have passed through tax havens and relatives rather than going in a straight line.

But if a bribery scheme indeed existed, it would have had to have been organised in something of a hurry. Heverton's sentence was only announced on the Friday, and the fatal game was on Sunday, just two days later. There was little time, then, to put shady dealings into practice.

There will be a few months now when Brazilian football will be anxiously waiting for the outcome of the investigation. WS

Survival stakes...Diogo of Portuguesa (front) battles with Fluminense's Bruno last year

AUSTRALIA

SIMON HILL
in Sydney

The remarkable rise of the Wanderers

From nothing to continental champions in less than three years

The term fairy tale may be over used in football, but in the case of Western Sydney Wanderers it's a fitting description. A club that didn't even exist two-and-a-half years ago, they now find themselves heading to Morocco for the Club World Cup after beating Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia in the AFC Champions League Final.

The first Australian side to lift the continental trophy, this was no lucky run either, as they had to overcome the J.League champions (Sanfrecce Hiroshima), the defending Asian champions (Guangzhou Evergrande) and last season's Champions League runners-up (Seoul) on their way to the Final. The two-legged quarter-final victory over China's Guangzhou Evergrande was probably the highlight, winning on away goals against a side led by Italy's 2006 World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi and one that cost twice as much as the entire A-League salary cap.

Although the western Sydney region has long been a hotbed of football in Australia, producing many international players, it had no representation in the A-League until 2012.

In the days of the National Soccer League, the area had many teams in the old semi-pro competition, and most with ethnic heritage – such as Marconi Stallions (Italian), Sydney United (Croatian), Sydney Olympic (Greek), and, going even further back, Parramatta Eagles (Maltese). But when the fully professional A-League began in 2005, Australia's largest city was represented only by Sydney FC. And although the club claimed to be a team for the whole of the Greater Sydney area, most in the west saw little appeal in a club based in the inner city.

With Football Federation Australia (FFA) belatedly recognising the need for the west to have its own club, attempts were made to find financial backing for a new outfit, called Sydney Rovers, in time for the 2011-12 season. A consortium, led by businessman Ian Rowden, was awarded the licence in 2009 but failed to find the necessary funding, and the fledgling franchise fell over a year later, without a ball even being kicked.

The western Sydney idea then went into cold storage for two years, until the demise of Gold Coast United – an expansion club itself, owned by the eccentric billionaire Clive Palmer, who failed to entice more than a few thousand diehards to support the team. Although the FFA was determined that western Sydney should fill the void, no financial backing was forthcoming, so

Vital...Wanderers sub Juric (far left) scored the all-important goal in the home leg of the Final

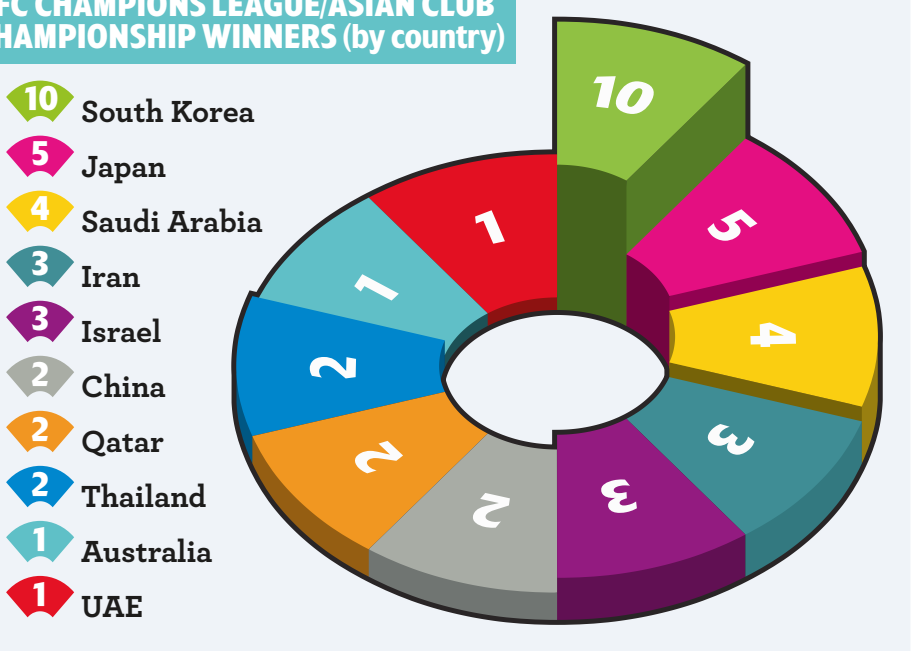
FFA chairman Frank Lowy announced that the governing body would fund the project, with the government chipping in A$4million in grant money for an area seen as crucial for federal politics.

There were, however, many who doubted a professional club could survive in the west, let alone thrive.

Western Sydney is a sprawling region, far from the picture-postcard images of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House which make the city famous. It's an area diverse in population, rather spread out, and, as such, has little overall identity. But the FFA, stung by failure in their earlier expansion attempts on the Gold Coast and in North Queensland, hit upon the right formula from day one.

The club conducted community forums across the region, inviting fans to have their say on the name, colours,

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE/ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS (by country)



stadium location and even playing style. This gave supporters, who had become jaded after the demise of their favourite NSL side, immediate buy-in and the touchpaper was lit.

In October 2012 the newly named Western Sydney Wanderers made their debut in the A-League under the leadership of Tony Popovic, a "westie" who had been lured back home from his job as assistant manager to Dougie Freedman at Crystal Palace in England. Despite having just six months to put together an entire playing squad and make it competitive, Popovic won the Premiership at the first attempt.

Popovic's masterstroke was to bring in Japan international Shinji Ono in preference to German superstar Michael Ballack. Ono fitted into the coach's system like a glove and earned the undying love of the Wanderers ever-growing fan base, which began that inaugural season with a modest home crowd of 10,458 and ended it with around 30,000 cheering them on in the Grand Final, where they lost 2-0 to Central Coast Mariners.

As demand grew to watch games at their home ground in Parramatta, Wanderers had to put a limit on season-tickets sales, and last term an estimated 10,000 fans made the interstate trip for another Grand Final, which they lost 2-1 in extra-time to Brisbane Roar. The derby with Sydney FC is now arguably the biggest local rivalry in any Australian football code, with sell-out crowds for every clash.

Before the start of the campaign, the club that no one wanted to invest in two years ago was sold to a consortium led by Paul Lederer, for around A$11m, making a tidy profit for the FFA, whose gamble had certainly paid off.

But if domestic success was one thing, being competitive on the Asian stage was quite another.

Australian clubs have historically found the going tough in the Asian Champions League – and with good reason. The A-League season isn't in sync with the Asian calendar, so qualifiers for the competition have to wait nearly a full 12 months before playing in the tournament, during which time squads can change drastically.

That, in turn, is related to the draconian salary cap that all A-League clubs must operate under. Outside of marquee players, who are exempt, the clubs' 23-man squads are put together for a fraction over A$2.5m. Talented players are therefore easily lured elsewhere, particularly overseas, by the promise of bigger wages.

Prior to this season's competition, Adelaide United were the only Australian side to have reached the Final of the AFC Champions League, losing 5-0 on aggregate to Gamba Osaka in 2008. So when Wanderers let slip a first-minute lead to lose 3-1 at home to Ulsan Hyundai of South Korea in their opening group game, expectations weren't exactly sky high.

But under the astute leadership of Popovic, Wanderers learned quickly and they adapted their style of play to absorb pressure. In all, they kept 10 clean sheets in 14 Champions League games, thanks to some fine goalkeeping from the 39-year-old Ante Covic. The team also developed a remarkable habit of scoring first – and scoring early – in the group stage, which gave their doughty defence something to protect.

With a goal from Tomi Juric in the home leg of the Final giving his side something to defend in the return, Popovic's men held firm in Riyadh to win 1-0 on aggregate – although the hosts did have at least three decent penalty appeals turned down.

Thousands of people turned up at Sydney Airport to greet the team on their return home. With an ever-growing band of supporters – led by the Red & Black Bloc, whose fanaticism has taken fandom in Australia onto a new level – there's now talk of stadium expansion or even reconstruction.

Before that, however, there's the Club World Cup, where Wanderers will face Cruz Azul of Mexico. Another win and they will go head to head with the might of Real Madrid. Not bad for a club that was still just a concept when Cristiano Ronaldo was putting pen to paper for the European champions. WS

> "The greatest triumph of an Australian club in a sporting competition"
>
> Melbourne newspaper *The Age* on Wanderers' Champions League success

Hero...coach Popovic

ROY KITSON
in Belfast

O'Neill's men still on course

Record-breaking start to qualifying campaign keeps finals in sight

Despite a 2-0 defeat in Romania, Michael O'Neill remains optimistic that he can be the first man to take Northern Ireland to a major tournament since Billy Bingham's side went to the World Cup finals in 1982 and 1986.

"We have four home games to look forward to and we have played our most difficult away games," says O'Neill of his side's qualifying campaign for Euro 2016. "Nine points from four games after playing in Budapest, Athens and Bucharest puts us in second place in the group, and in a strong position to qualify.

"I am very proud of the effort the players have put in."

O'Neill's side began with three straight wins – something no Northern Ireland side had managed before in a major tournament – and topped Group F before the game in Bucharest. Defeat saw them slip to second place behind Romania, but with two automatic qualifiers – and even the team in third earning a play-off place – hopes are high that a spot at France 2016 can be secured.

> "Our focus now is to win the next two home games, against Finland and Romania, where we have an opportunity to cement our place in the top three"
>
> Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill

"We were up against what I consider to be the strongest team in the group and to have got anything out of the game would have been a big bonus for us," says O'Neill of the Romania clash.

"We knew we would have to defend for long periods and rely on counter-attacks. However, we came within 15 minutes of coming away from Bucharest with a point, and in the end we have to admit that the better team won."

With managerial stints at Brechin City and Shamrock Rovers behind him before succeeding Nigel Worthington in December 2011, there were some concerns about O'Neill's lack of experience on the international stage – although he had been the first manager to take a League of Ireland club to the group stage of a European competition, with Shamrock in the Europa League.

However, there is certainly no question about O'Neill's suitability for the job now. His contract with the IFA was renewed last year and he has made the most of a squad that has just a handful of players who are regulars in the English and Scottish top flights.

Adopting a flexible 4-2-3-1 formation, evergreen goalkeeper Roy Carroll, now of Notts County, is well supported by veteran defenders Aaron Hughes and Chris Baird, while Steven Davis controls midfield and 5ft 5in winger Jamie Ward is the supply line for bustling 6ft 4in centre-forward Kyle Lafferty, who is Group F top scorer so far with three goals.

An estimated 1,000 fans travelled to Bucharest and O'Neill believes they might have seen an even better result had his side been at full strength.

"Certainly the absence of our captain Steven Davis, who was out with a hamstring injury, hurt us in midfield where I felt we lacked the ability of keeping possession," said O'Neill. "That allowed Romania to pile on the pressure and we fell to two late goals.

"We were also missing other important players such as Shane Ferguson and Jamie Ward, which again limited our chances.

"But I was pleased with our work rate, and we are looking forward to the rest of the campaign which resumes in March."

Next up are Finland in Belfast, and with four of their remaining six games at home in the revamped Windsor Park – construction work is continuing apace – those long-suffering supporters are looking forward with eager expectation to the next phase of the competition. **WS**

Experience...Aaron Hughes keeps Romania's Alexandru Chipciu at bay

Thinking ahead...Michael O'Neill aims to bridge a 30-year gap

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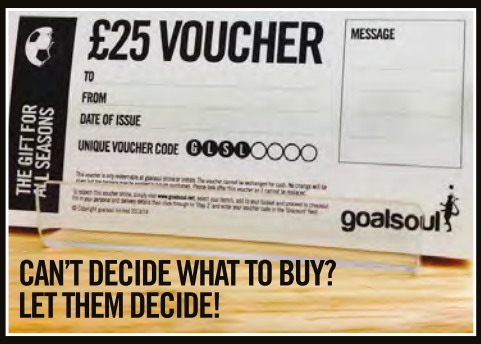

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ITALY

PADDY AGNEW
in Rome

Mancini back at Inter

Return of coach overshadows trouble at Euro 2016 qualifier

Italy were faced with a re-run of their old horror movies when Antonio Conte's side faced Croatia in mid November. Not for the first time, an Italian Euro qualifier managed to make headlines not because of the result – a 1-1 draw in Milan – but rather because of the crowd trouble which forced Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers to twice suspend the game.

The match prompted reminders of the October 2010 Euro qualifier against Serbia in Genoa; a game that was abandoned after only six minutes following violent disturbances by a small number of the 1,600 Serbian fans present. Fortunately, this time the game did not have to be abandoned, but UEFA will want to understand just how 200 or so of the 10,000 Croat fans present were able to bring the match to a halt with a massive, second-half bombardment of flares and firecrackers.

Both countries are likely to face sanctions, with Italy being held responsible for having allowed fans to bring a huge number of flares into the stadium, and Croatia for the violent behaviour of their fans. In the end, Italy may get away with a fine, while Croatia could be looking at having to play a couple of home games behind closed doors.

The visiting fans did nothing to help their side by causing the interruptions: a short one halfway through the first half and another in the 75th minute, which halted play for 10 minutes. As far as the football was concerned, Croatia looked much the better side and it is at least arguable that without the breaks in play they would have won.

For the record, both goals were scored early on; Antonio Candreva opening the scoring for Italy in the 11th minute and Ivan Perisic equalising four minutes later.

After group wins against Norway, Azerbaijan and Malta, Conte's new-look Italy may have dropped their first points in Group H, but given the quality of Croatia, the coach did not seem too disappointed afterwards.

"They are a much travelled team, with a lot of quality, talent and experience," said Conte. "They gave us difficulties with their possession game, but my team stuck at it, they never stopped trying to get a result."

The build-up to the game had been rather overshadowed by the sacking of Internazionale coach Walter Mazzarri and his replacement by the returning ex-Manchester City and Galatasaray boss Roberto Mancini. Just days after he had given an interview to daily newspaper *La Repubblica*, in which he appeared to express his full confidence in Mazzarri, Inter's Indonesian owner, Erick Thohir, fired him.

Thohir represents the new face of Italian football club ownership and he wants his Inter to stand on its own two feet – essentially by cutting costs, maximising revenue and selling brand "Inter" on the global market.

It sounds bright and easy and all so modern, but when it came to dealing with the familiar old problem of a team's run of bad results, the media tycoon resorted to older, tried-and-trusted methods. In other words, he sacked the coach.

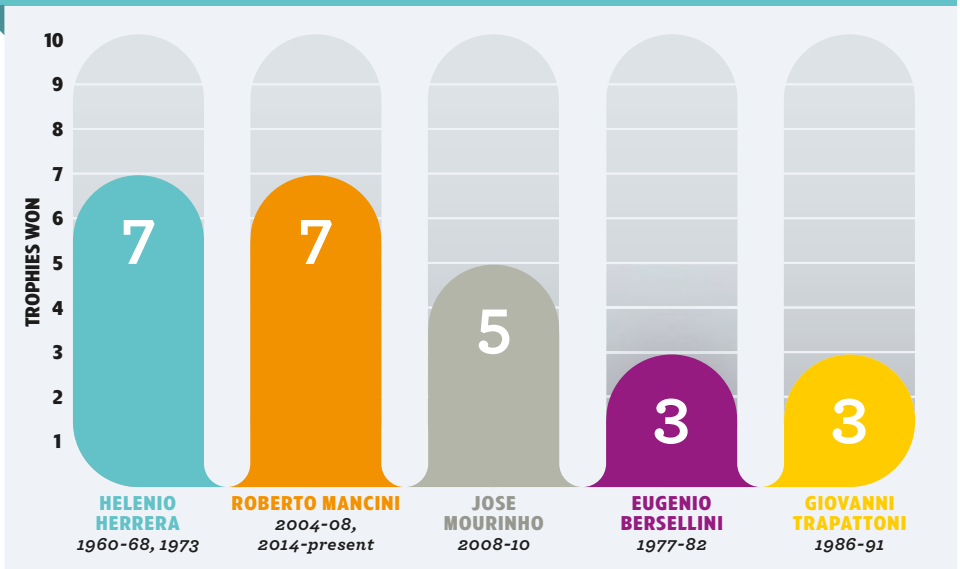
As a result, Inter now have the two highest-paid coaches in Serie A on the payroll, with Mazzarri still under contract until June 2016.

Sports daily *Gazzetta Dello Sport* calculates that their combined salaries over the next three years will cost the club €35 million. Mancini is believed to have signed a contract for two and a half years worth €4m a year after tax, with Mazzarri on €3.5m.

That's hardly a cost-cutting operation, so what changed Thohir's mind? To be fair, there was always the suspicion that Mazzarri would not have been his ideal first choice. Secondly, after he had given that interview, Inter picked up yet another bad result,

Trouble...flares thrown by Croatia fans force the Euro qualifier at Milan's San Siro stadium to be halted

INTERNAZIONALE'S MOST SUCCESSFUL COACHES OF ALL TIME



drawing 2-2 at home with Verona. That came at the end of a run which, between late September and early November, had seen Inter lose 4-1 at home to Cagliari, 3-0 away to Fiorentina and 2-0 at home to Parma.

Media reports suggest a meeting between Thohir and Mazzarri at Appiano Gentile the day before the Verona game may have tipped the scales. More than just the poor results, Thohir had apparently been much worried by Mazzarri's angst-ridden condition. The coach's bitter contestation of refereeing decisions during the match did not much help his cause either.

The day after the game, Thohir lunched with former Inter owner Massimo Moratti, seeking his advice. The petrol millionaire, who still controls a 30 per cent shareholding in the club, appears to have recommended a change of coach, telling Thohir that his best options in the current situation would be either of two former coaches: Leonardo or Mancini. In the end, according to Moratti, Thohir had the final call, opting for the latter.

So, the coaching position at Inter continues to be just about the hottest seat in Italian football. In the last 20 years, they have had 19 different coaches, some of them more than once. Roy Hodgson, Mircea Lucescu, Marcello Lippi, Marco Tardelli, Hector Cuper, Alberto Zaccheroni, Rafa Benitez and Claudio Ranieri are just some of the famous names who have tried and failed at the club since the mid 1990s.

In all that time, only two coaches could be said to have been a success at Inter – Mancini and the "Special One", Jose Mourinho. The Portuguese, of course, led them to the magic treble of Champions League, Serie A and Italian Cup success in 2010. However, he inherited a winning team from Mancini, who in his first spell from 2004 to 2008 won three league titles and the Italian Cup twice. In the process, Mancini became not only the longest-serving Inter coach of modern times, but also immensely popular with their fans.

In truth, it had only been Mancini's failure in the Champions League that had prompted Moratti to sack him in the first place. The pair parted on bad terms and ended up with a consensual court agreement 18 months later that Mancini would receive €8m severance pay.

Bygones are bygones, however, and to the delight of the fans, "Mancio" is back. With a third-place Champions League finish in Serie A his obvious main priority, Mancini faces a stiff task. However, goalkeeper Samir Handanovic, captain and central defender Andrea Ranocchia, Hernanes, Mateo Kovacic and striker Mauro Icardi have all continued to play well during most of the recent mediocre run.

Mancini's problems will concern regenerating players such as Fredy Guarin, still searching for his ideal position, Rodrigo Palacio, still suffering from missing that chance for Argentina in the World Cup Final, and Nemanja Vidic, who has been uncharacteristically mistake-prone at the back. **WS**

> "I think we can write another success story. I believe in this club's plans. We have to knuckle down because if we work hard we can achieve great things"
> Roberto Mancini on his return to Inter

Back...Mancini begins a second spell in charge at San Siro

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS
in Athens

Ranieri pays the price

Italian leaves after disastrous run of results

In just four months in the job, coach Claudio Ranieri helped transport the national team back to the dreadful pre-2004 days and guided Greece to one of its most humiliating defeats: a Euro 2016 qualifier loss at home to a virtually amateur Faroe Islands side. That resulted in the 63-year-old Italian being suspended by the country's football federation until the end of the year, when a compensation plan can be agreed upon.

Ranieri oversaw three home defeats without scoring a single goal – Romania 1-0, Northern Ireland 2-0 and Faroe Islands 1-0 – and managed a 1-1 draw in Finland. Greece began the qualifying campaign as favourites to reach the finals, but the 2004 European champions are currently last in Group F and have virtually no chance of making it to France.

At a loss...Vangelis Moras looks to Ranieri for help during the calamitous Faroes defeat

The federation has said it is in the process of seeking a replacement for Ranieri and local media have speculated on two Greek coaches: Giorgos Donis, currently in charge of APOEL in Cyprus, and Angelos Anastasiadis of PAOK.

A federation statement described a meeting between Ranieri and president Giorgos Sarris being held "in a good climate" but after the negative results "there was no other option than to terminate the co-operation".

Although Ranieri's contract called for the full amount – €1.6million for two years – to be paid in the event of his removal, the two sides are looking to settle for about €500,000. It is worth mentioning that Ranieri has coached 11 teams in the last 12 years and amassed compensation of €13m so far after being fired by six of them since 2004.

The federation denied that a successor to Ranieri had already been found, saying that there was plenty of time to look for a new coach before the next Euro qualifying tie, against Hungary in March.

"Following today's devastating result for the national team, I take full responsibility for the unfortunate choice of the coach," said Sarris immediately after the loss to the Faroe Islands.

Ranieri insisted the responsibility for the defeat was his own, but he would not resign. "It's very hard to find what caused us to play so badly," he said at the post-match press conference. "Apparently the opponents were better than us. I am responsible for this result, as for the previous negative results. It is too early to evaluate. We cannot talk about anything else, and yes, I will continue.

"Everything can be corrected through hard work. This is the key. Nobody believed that we would be here [bottom of the group]. We made the mistake of believing that it was an easy group but things in football are not like that."

The former boss of Atletico Madrid, Chelsea, Valencia, Parma, Juventus, Roma, Internazionale and Monaco arrived in Greece in July and succeeded Portugal's Fernando Santos, who had just taken the team to the last 16 of the World Cup for the first time in their history and reached the quarter-finals of Euro 2012.

> Kostas Tsanas took temporary control of the Greece national team for the 2-0 defeat by Serbia in Athens

Ranieri was sacked by Monaco in May and had very little time to brush up on his knowledge of the Greek players – which showed with the immediate loss to Romania in the opening Euro 2016 qualifier.

Ranieri called up 38 players during his short tenure but injuries to key members of the squad proved a major headache.

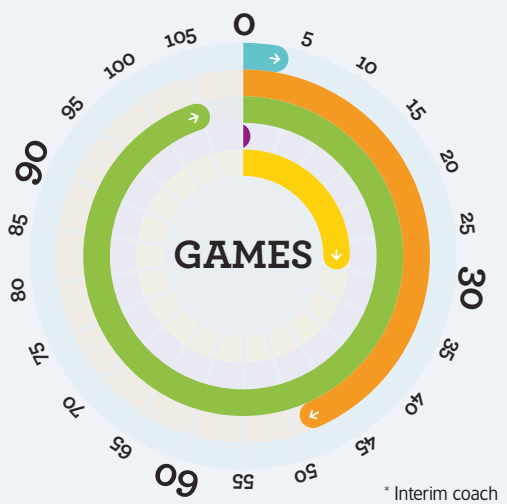
He was often criticised by the Greek press for his selections and tactics, and the federation appointed former national captain Giorgos Karagounis to act as liaison between Ranieri and the players in order to help bridge the communication gap.

"On such nights, everyone is to blame," Karagounis said of the Faroes defeat. "But now is not the time to discuss it.

"I still believe that the team has more talent than others, but this is not enough. It is a very bad night for all of us." WS

REIGN OF RECENT GREECE COACHES

4	49	106	1	30
CLAUDIO RANIERI 2014	FERNANDO SANTOS 2010–14	OTTO REHHAGEL 2001–10	NIKOS CHRISTIDIS 2001*	VASILIS DANIIL 1999–2001



* Interim coach

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NICK BIDWELL
in Munich

Klopp under scrutiny

Dortmund's woes have piled the pressure on their coach

The five-match losing streak which recently sent normally dominant Borussia Dortmund sliding into the relegation zone might not be the most humiliating chapter in the Ruhr giants' Bundesliga history – the 11-1 mauling at Bayern Munich in 1971 and a 12-0 thumping by Borussia Monchengladbach seven years later were considerably more painful – but it could be one of the most embarrassing and unexpected.

Dortmund were beaten in seven of their first 10 league games this term in their worst start to a Bundesliga campaign since 1971-72. And their attack of the yips was as sudden as it was shocking. Once fearless, self-assured and ferociously synchronised, the champions of 2011 and 2012 have of late looked bedraggled, sloppy and bemused, with even ultra-confident coach Jurgen Klopp at pains to offer any sort of profound explanation.

Who would have thought it? A vulnerable Dortmund on Klopp's watch...

In a world where logic reigns supreme, a squad containing five freshly minted world champions and no fewer than 24 current full internationals would be hot on Bayern's heels at the top of the table. But in football the on/off switch is not always easy to locate, and when doubts filter into the collective psyche the downward spiral can take on a life of its own.

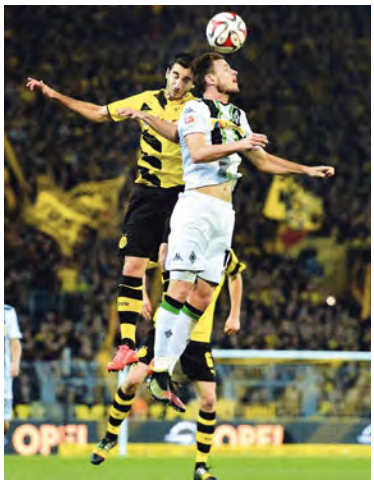
For the first time since taking over at Signal Iduna Park in the summer of 2008, Klopp has a full-blown crisis to manage. However, fortunately for him, no one at the club – not board, not fans nor squad – is panicking just yet. Thanks to all the success that Klopp has brought them (two Bundesliga titles, a German Cup and runners-up spot in the 2013 Champions League), he is untouchable and will have all the time he needs to turn it around.

Given the deluxe players available to Klopp and the club's outstanding track record for putting together long winning runs after Christmas, a top-three finish is far from out of the question and already there are signs they have bottomed out.

Despite eventually succumbing to a 2-1 defeat at Bayern in the *Klassiker* in early November, the way Klopp's side ran the show in the first half – taking a deserved lead on the half-hour through a rare Marco Reus header – was very encouraging. The mood in the camp would have been further lightened by a 1-0 home victory the following week over in-form Borussia Monchengladbach, with the two sides separated by a bizarre long-range own-goal from midfielder Christoph Kramer.

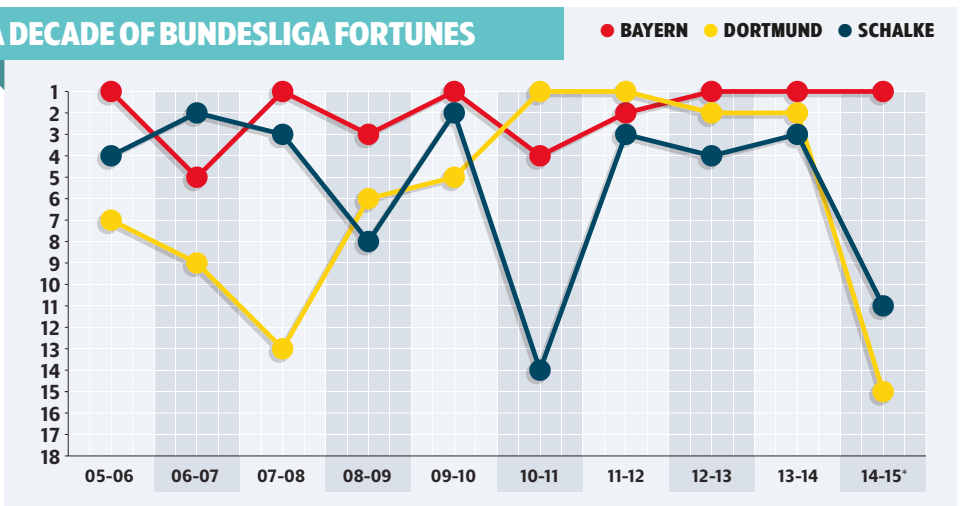
"Everything that could go wrong is going wrong," bemoaned Dortmund skipper Mats Hummels in the wake of a 1-0 loss at home to Hanover, and it's an assessment impossible to deny. Whether it be woeful defending, too many misplaced passes or profligacy in front of goal, Dortmund have often been their own worst enemy this season. And just to pile on the misery, a lengthy injury list never seems to shorten.

Hummels, Reus, central defender Neven Subotic, left-back Marcel Schmelzer, midfielders Ilkay Gundogan and Nuri Sahin, and right-winger Jakub Blaszczykowski have all been on the



Heads up...a timely win over Monchengladbach

A DECADE OF BUNDESLIGA FORTUNES



(* *as of 19.11.14*)

treatment table and Klopp has been forced to change his line-up almost every week, meaning team cohesion has inevitably gone south.

An additional Dortmund fault line is the canyon-like gap left by striker Robert Lewandowski's move to Bayern. Until now, neither of the club's new front men, Adrian Ramos of Colombia or Italy's Ciro Immobile, have looked convincing. Although Gabon speedster Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has performed well when pressed into centre-forward action, he does not have the all-round game to lead the line properly.

Whatever the barbs aimed at Dortmund director of sport Michael Zorc for "wasting" €29million on Immobile and Ramos, the truth is that Lewandowski was nigh on irreplaceable. As penalty-box executioner, key counter-attacker, and selfless and mobile linker of the play, the Pole did it all. As soon as he responded to Bayern's call, second-best alternatives were the only stock left on the shelf.

> "I believe life is fair and if you misbehave while you are successful, you will get it back one day"
> Borussia Dortmund coach Jurgen Klopp

Arguably Klopp's biggest concern is the chilling thought that the rest of the Bundesliga has at long last come up with a plan to negate his side's high-octane pressing game and lightning-quick counters. Faced by teams who are happy to sit back in numbers and give up possession, Dortmund tend to lose their poise, running out of creative ideas, over-committing to attack, then being picked off late in the game.

It's the footballing equivalent of the "rope a dope" tactics employed by Muhammad Ali in his famous world heavyweight championship victory over George Foreman in Zaire in 1974. Fall back, let the other guy punch himself out, deliver the *coup de grace*.

The message is loud and clear. Give Dortmund the space – the mistake made by all their Champions League opponents this term – and they will capitalise. Man the barricades, make them dictate terms and you have a chance. Time for a touch more flexibility, Jurgen... **WS**

Passion but no panic...Dortmund will give Klopp the time he needs to turn things round

STEVE MENARY

Finals debut

Under-20 World Cup marks a new chapter for the Pacific Island

Photo: OFC Media

Champions...Fiji celebrate winning the Oceania under-20 crown but their qualification for the World Cup has caused problems

Fiji's national association is scouring as far afield as North America as the Pacific Island prepares for its debut in a world finals, having qualified for next summer's Under-20 World Cup.

With New Zealand already guaranteed a place as tournament hosts, Fiji took full advantage this May by winning the continental championship to claim the Oceania berth. That, however, has thrown up a host of complications for the Fijians.

"We have waited for a long time to play in something like this," says Juan Carlos Buzzetti, a 69-year-old Uruguayan who is now in his second stint as coach of Fiji's senior side. "We are searching for players in Australia, New Zealand, even America and Canada."

Unfortunately for Buzzetti, the finals clash with the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea and the first round of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup. He will therefore have little involvement and ex-Socceroo Frank Farina, who managed PNG from 2011 to 2013, has been brought in on a short-term contract as the under-20s' technical adviser.

Qualification has also put a strain on financial resources at the Fiji FA. The national team currently languishes at 192 in FIFA's rankings and Buzzetti says there is simply not enough money to play the 10 to 12 games a year that he feels Fiji need to improve that position. In the short-term, Buzzetti admits that "much of the money will be channelled to [the under-20s]".

Buzzetti thinks as many as 10 of the under-20 squad could ultimately make the step up to his senior team and agrees there are some similarities with Tahiti, who are the only other Pacific Island to qualify for the Under-20 World Cup, making the finals in 2009.

The core of that team helped Tahiti qualify for the 2013 Confederations Cup, but football in Fiji is overshadowed by both rugby codes – which offer Fijians a chance to play professionally in Australia and New Zealand.

Tahiti's success came as a result of a grass-roots programme that began in 2000 and Fiji striker Roy Krishna, who left to play in New Zealand in 2008, says a "lack of family support and the grass-root development programmes" are the biggest problem facing the game in his homeland.

Football rarely features in schools, so Buzzetti has put in place a four-year programme. But the Fijian game is also hindered by geography.

Fiji comprises 332 islands of which 110 are inhabited. The national league has been cut from 10 to eight clubs but seven are from the main island of Viti Levu. The other side is Krishna's former club, Labasa, from the next largest island of Vanua Levu. Top players in Fiji can get up to £50 a week, but decent boots cost more than that and players generally go through at least two pairs a season due to the dire state of the pitches.

> "Hopefully we do well and some of our boys can get professional contracts overseas"
>
> **Fiji international Roy Krishna on the Under-20 World Cup**

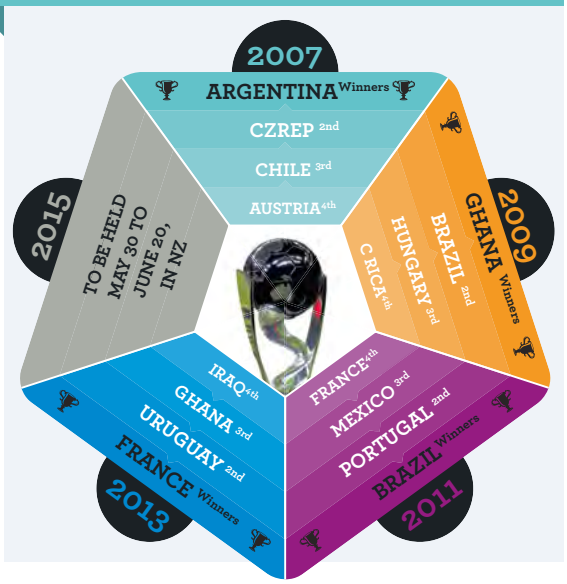
Krishna is now at Wellington Phoenix but played and scored for Auckland City in the 2013 Club World Cup, and he thinks that the under-20 tournament could provide a significant fillip that could take Fiji to a senior World Cup finals.

"It's going to benefit our national team in future. Hopefully we do well and some of our boys can get professional contracts overseas," says Krishna.

"We have the skills, height and strength, we just need players playing overseas and gaining more experience and knowing more about football."

The Under-20 World Cup could certainly provide some of that experience, or it could benefit the Fijian diaspora. For the local game, that is the dilemma. WS

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP



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BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

JAMES MONTAGUE
in Banja Luka

A tale of two states

Bosnia remains a country blighted by ethnic divisions

Asmir Avdukic is talking but he cannot help but glance down every few sentences and admire his own wrist. The 33-year-old Bosnia international goalkeeper is sitting in the mid-morning sun in the west stand of his club side, Borac Banja Luka, admiring an expensive-looking watch.

It is the day before a crucial match in the Bosnian league, against Zrinjski Mostar, the defending champions. "We all got one," Avdukic says, beaming with pride as he gestures to the large silver-and-black dial handed to every member of Bosnia's 2014 World Cup squad.

As the national team's third-choice goalkeeper in Brazil, Avdukic didn't play a single minute of the finals. But he wears the watch every day.

"It was an honour to be part of the Bosnian national team," he says. "After all, we had played our first game in the Maracana. We had experienced our first win. And everyone who plays football lives for that moment and the chance to play in the World Cup."

Bosnia was making its historic debut in the tournament, and when the team qualified last year 50,000 people celebrated on the streets in Sarajevo. The squad, with its multi-million pound talent – from Edin Dzeko to Miralem Pjanic and Asmir Begovic – all received a watch, which they no doubt soon packed away; another bauble in an industry awash with expensive baubles. But not Avdukic. He was an anomaly in the squad.

For one, he was the only player in the squad who plays in the Bosnian Premier League, a competition in which a player will earn between €500 to €1,500 a week – which means they make in a year what Dzeko would earn at Manchester City in a week.

In Bosnia, Avdukic is an anomaly too: a Bosniak Muslim playing for a Borac Banja Luka team whose identity is proudly Bosnian Serb, and whose fans and many of its players see the Bosnian national team as a foreign, almost alien body.

"After we qualified many people came and congratulated me," Avdukic recalled. "I've had a beautiful time in Banja Luka and I don't feel the difference."

While the narrative at the World Cup was one of Bosnian unity, the reality on the ground is far more complex.

It is true that the national team has become a totem for Bosnians who fled the war and settled in European countries like Germany, Italy and the UK. In many cases, their away support outnumbered the home crowd during the 2014 World Cup qualification campaign. It is also true that the national team, and the local league, reflects the country around it – although not in perhaps the way that many think.

Each league club has its own ethnic identity: Zrinjski Mostar is Croatian, Borac is Serb and Sarajevo largely Bosniak. A huge security operation has to be run for every game, with tight controls on the movement of away fans. The league is blighted by ethnic divisions in much the same way as its dysfunctional political system.

> "If Republika Srpska is recognised, many players will choose to play for it. But this is the players' individual choice"
> Borac Banja Luka coach Vinko Marinovic

Bosnia is, in effect, two states. One half is the Bosnian federation comprising mainly of Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats, while the other is the Republika Srpska, a self-governing Bosnian Serb entity whose president hopes one day to either be an independent nation, with its own national football team and Banja Luka as its capital, or to become part of Serbia.

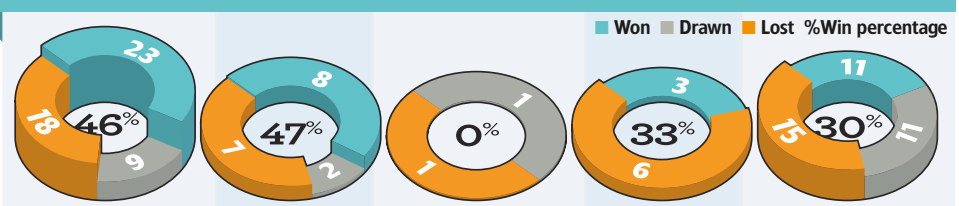
As a result, the national team has little unifying effect in much of the country. In Mostar, the city's Bosnian Croats and Bosniaks are separated by its famous bridge. During the World Cup, Bosnian Croats would support Croatia and burn the Bosnian flag on the bridge after the game. When Bosnia played, the other side of the bridge burned the Croatia flag. In Republika Srpska during the World Cup, virtually no one supported the Bosnian national team. Only three players in the squad were Serb or Croat.

"People in the Republika Srpska do not think the Bosnian national team is their team. They celebrate the victories of Serbia," explains Goran Arbutina, a journalist from Banja Luka. "They live for the Serbia game and the Serbian clubs. Most people support Red Star or Partizan."

The disconnect has led many players to seek international futures elsewhere. For example, Borussia Dortmund defender Neven Subotic, who is one of Banja Luka's most famous sons, chose to represent Serbia rather than Bosnia.

Recently the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina – split along ethnic lines until FIFA suspended it until a single president was decided on – announced that it hoped the national team might play in Banja Luka. However, few in

BOSNIA'S NATIONAL COACHES IN THE PAST DECADE



SAFET SUCIC	MIROSLAV BLASEVIC	MEHO KODRO	FUAD MUZUROVIC	BLAZ SLISKOVIC
Mar 10 to Nov 14	Aug 08 to Nov 09	Jan 08 - Mar 08	Mar 07 - Nov 07	Mar 02 - Oct 06

*does not include caretaker coaches

Political allegiance...Borac Banja Luka fans display a banner reading "Ratko Mladic, Serbian hero" in praise of the Serb warlord during a Bosnian league match

Republika Srpska think this is a good idea. "I don't think it is possible," says Arbutina. "It won't bring any good. We will have some problems.

"You will get a situation where most of the crowd would support the other team, no matter who it is. We need time to change their minds. We've had players not wanting to play for Bosnia, and then realise that it is the only way to get out, for scouts to see them they accept it."

Borac Banja Luka were the only Bosnian team to keep playing professionally during the war. The city was largely untouched but cut off from Serbian territory. The only way out to Belgrade was a small, heavily protected, 1km-wide corridor that frequently came under attack.

"It was difficult during the war," says 43-year-old Vinko Marinovic, now the team's coach. "We travelled a minimum of eight hours for three years. But we existed. It was very heavy. We travelled across the corridor. All around it was war. That was a little danger. But we had luck."

Marinovic went on to play for Red Star in Belgrade for four years and made his one international appearance for what was effectively Serbia in 1998. He, too,

Dog-tired...Bosnia goalkeeper Avdukic gets an unusual greeting

sees few signs that many players in Republika Srpska are prepared to play for Bosnia. Most, he believes, would choose to play for the Republika Srpska national team, if it was recognised by UEFA and FIFA. A friendly against Serbia in Banja Luka had been planned for this autumn but was later cancelled.

Only around 5,000 fans turned up at the Banja Luka City Stadium to see Borac take on Zrinjski Mostar. The home fans sang nationalistic songs and hung banners proclaiming Kosovo to be part of Serbia, while the away fans, under heavy police escort, were marched into the stadium 10 minutes after the start and corralled out 10 minutes before the end.

There has been some improvement in national team representation since Brazil, and during the recent Euro qualifiers five Serb and Croat players were called in to the squad. Three players came from the domestic league. It did little good, however. A 3-0 defeat by Israel led to the dismissal of coach Safet Susic, the hero of the World Cup qualification campaign.

The news, much like everything else surrounding the Bosnian national team, was greeted in Republika Srpska with little more than a shrug. WS

PLAYER Biography

MARCO REUS

» Timeline

MAY 31, 2008 — Scores the winner for Rot Weiss Ahlen in a 3-1 win away to Babelsberg that secures promotion to Bundesliga 2.

MAY 25, 2009 — Signs for Borussia Monchengladbach.

AUG 11, 2009 — Makes his under-21 debut for Germany in a friendly against Turkey.

AUG 28, 2009 — Scores his first Bundesliga goal as Borussia Monchengladbach beat Mainz 2-0.

MAY 25, 2011 — Scores the equaliser in a relegation/promotion play-off against Bochum to give Gladbach a 2-1 aggregate win.

The one that nearly got away

German football's latest superstar was once considered too small to make the grade. **Nick Bidwell reports**

Football talent spotters don't always get it right and clubs are often guilty of dispensing with youthful diamonds too eagerly. The young Michel Platini was shown the door by Metz in the wake of a failed respiratory test, Coventry City were put off by Kevin Keegan's lack of height, while Franco Baresi and George Best were deemed too small by Internazionale and Glentoran respectively. And eight years ago Borussia Dortmund felt exactly the same way about current German international Marco Reus.

Unstoppable... Reus gets away from Galatasaray's Blerim Dzemaili in a Champions League clash in October

OCT 7, 2011 Makes his senior international debut as a late substitute for Mario Gotze in Germany's 3-1 Euro 2012 qualifying win away to Turkey.

NOV 19, 2011 Scores his first Bundesliga hat-trick as Monchengladbach beat Werder Bremen 5-0 at home.

MAY 26, 2012 Scores first goal for Germany, in a 5-3 friendly defeat away to Switzerland.

JUN 28, 2012 Replaces Lukas Podolski as a half-time substitute in Germany's Euro 2012 semi-final defeat to Italy.

Reus was on the books of his hometown club since the age of six, and his ability to dribble, invent and outpace made him a staple of Dortmund's schoolboy and junior teams. Yet on graduating to the under-17 squad he suddenly found himself up to his neck in Ruhr quicksand; first condemned for his frailty, then marginalised by coach Peter Wazinski, and eventually prodded towards the exit in 2006.

With Reus going on to re-emerge spectacularly at third-tier Rot Weiss Ahlen and top-flight Borussia Monchengladbach, Dortmund would have to spend €17million to bring him back in 2012. But while Wazinski has gone down in football folklore as the man who discarded the young superstar, he cannot take the rap all on his own.

Scouting and youth development can be a spin of the roulette wheel at the best of times and the young Reus undoubtedly cut a waif-like figure; he was toothpick thin and seemingly wearing a shirt and shorts which were far too big for him. Look at photos of a Dortmund youth team from that era. Tiny? Reus could be the mascot.

"Back then, he really was very small and skinny," recalls former Dortmund youth-team colleague Christopher Heermann. "He also had to contend with a lot of competition for places in attacking positions.

"Personally, I always thought Marco was a brilliant player.

"With the ball at his feet he could do everything. He was extremely quick and so hard to stop when dribbling. You might say, Peter Wazinski now owes Dortmund €17m."

These days, Wazinski is deputy head of Dortmund's academy programme; his lack of belief in Reus' physical capacities has, in a way, turned out to be strangely prophetic. Over the past 12 months, the spiky-haired wizard of the dribble has been on a seemingly endless loop of muscular problems.

And after tearing ligaments in his left ankle in Germany's 6-1 friendly win over Armenia last June he suffered the heartache of World Cup withdrawal, with his despair only heightened by the *Nationalmannschaft*'s triumph.

Keen to put such a bitter setback behind him, Reus was back in the Bundesliga saddle by mid-August, but within three weeks he was sprawled on the deck once more, re-injuring the same left ankle in a Euro 2016 qualifier against Scotland and forced to sit out the following month.

In the most gloomy of assessments, leading German orthopaedic specialist Dr Andree Ellermann warns that Reus will always be vulnerable to this type of injury; that once ankle ligaments are damaged, the risk of a repeat becomes greater. However, only time will really tell if the diagnosis is correct. Reus' many blue-chip suitors – among them, Real Madrid, Manchester City, Manchester United and Bayern Munich – and the wider public will be fervently hoping that Germany's Footballer of the Year for 2012 is merely experiencing a temporary systems shutdown.

If "Rolls-Reus" is currently one of the most sought-after properties in Europe, it is not solely a matter of show-stopping talent, desire and his absurdly cheap €25m release clause. To reach this point in his career he has needed some help – and no one offered him more than Rot Weiss Ahlen, the lower-league club from North Rhine-Westphalia that took him on after his Dortmund defenestration.

In truth, all Reus really needed was a different sort of paradigm – and as it turned out Ahlen was the perfect place to develop his potential.

A mere 45-minute drive from his Dortmund home, the environment was considerably less pressurised. He also had another Dortmund cast-off for company in Kevin Grosskreutz. But, most important of all, he was valued by his coaches.

After catching the eye with his attacking-third virtuosity for the Rot Weiss youth and reserve sides, the youngster was promoted to the first team in the summer of 2007 – and in no time at all would be making his mark, celebrating his first senior campaign at

FACT FILE

MARCO REUS

NATIONALITY
German

Age
25 (31.05.89)

Place of birth
Dortmund, Germany

Height
5ft 11in (1.80m)

Position
Attacking midfielder/winger

TEAMS

Rot Weiss Ahlen
(2007–09)
45 games/5 goals

Borussia Monchengladbach
(2009-12)
109 games/41 goals

Borussia Dortmund
(2012–present)
99 games/47 goals*

Germany
(2011-present)
23 games/7 goals*

HONOURS

Rot Weiss Ahlen
Regionalliga Nord [fourth division] 2008

Borussia Dortmund
German Super Cup 2013, 2014

(up to and including 04.11.14)*

Agony...an ankle injury against Armenia put him out of the World Cup

Deceptive... Reus' slender frame hides an all-action star

Returns to Borussia Dortmund, where he played junior football, and signs for the German champions.

JUL 1, 2012

Scores on his Dortmund debut in a 2-1 opening-day Bundesliga win at home to Werder Bremen.

AUG 24, 2012

Another debut goal, this time in the Champions League as Dortmund draw 1-1 away to Manchester City.

OCT 3, 2012

Plays at Wembley in the first all-German Champions League Final but is on the losing side as Bayern Munich beat Dortmund 2-1.

MAY 25, 2013

Happy days...Reus (second left) found a home from home at Rot Weiss Ahlen

Baggy shorts...the young Reus looks far too small for his Dortmund juniors kit

> "My idol was always Tomas Rosicky. I copied everything about him, right down to his sweatbands" **Reus on Arsenal's former Dortmund midfielder**

the Wersestadion with a Regionalliga Nord winners' medal and establishing himself the following term as one of the second division's most exciting prospects.

It is uncanny the extent to which the careers of Reus and Grosskreutz have mirrored one another: the Dortmund academy rejection slips on the grounds of athletic inadequacy; resurrection at Ahlen; prodigal-son return journeys to Dortmund and full caps for Germany.

"Marco and Kevin were already outstanding players on coming to us," says ex-Ahlen coach Christian Wuck. "Their only problem was that they were so far behind in terms of physical development. That was the stark reality.

"For them, three or four press-ups was a Herculean undertaking. Marco knew himself that he was a shrimp and Kevin also had lots of work to do in this area. We gave them individual programmes to make up the lost ground.

"The important thing was that they were willing to learn, were very keen to improve. For us in Ahlen, it was a gift from the gods to have two such exceptional young talents. What was particularly special about them was their ability to perform with outstanding technique at high tempo. This was the number one factor in them becoming Bundesliga stars.

"Having these two in our ranks worked out superbly for everyone. Because of our rather thin squad, we could give them the playing time they needed and they could win a game for you on their own."

So happy was Reus at Ahlen that even when Dortmund's then under-19 coach, the former Germany striker Heiko Herrlich, tried to re-sign him the approach was turned down by the youngster. As far as Reus was concerned, he had everything he could wish for. He was playing regularly, he was appreciated, he had a future.

Beyond the field of play, the intricacies of everyday life were of little importance to young Reus. The room he used for overnight stays in Ahlen contained only two items of furniture – a bed and a table for the TV – his clothes would be strewn all over the floor and his idea of a healthy breakfast was a kid's chocolate bar. Team-mate Marinko Miletic even had to buy him a mattress.

To all intents and purposes the game was all that mattered to Reus, and in comparison to so many young players his modus operandi was to keep his eye on the sporting prize. Not one for parties, bright lights, scandal or outrageous comments in the media, he was, and remains, the essence of low maintenance and low profile.

"I've the best job in the world," he says. "Many don't appreciate it, let themselves go and get carried away. That's not my thing."

His parents – factory-fitter father Thomas and ex-office worker mother Manuela – instilled in Marco and his two older sisters, Yvonne and Melanie, the importance of hard graft, thrift, respect and common sense, and Thomas Reus is especially proud of his son's immunity to dressing-room diva syndrome.

"He doesn't fritter his money away," declares Reus senior. "He has remained a good and modest lad. There was no place for luxury in our home. I had five mouths to feed."

Thomas Reus recalls his son becoming obsessed with a ball almost as soon as he could run and laughs that Marco would play for kicks anytime, anywhere, saying: "It was football, football, football with him, and in an emergency he would even

JUL 27, 2013 – Scores twice in a 4-2 German Super Cup win against Bayern Munich.

MAY 17, 2014 – Once again finishes as a runner-up to Bayern Munich as Dortmund are beaten 2-0 in the German Cup Final.

JUN 6, 2014 – Has to withdraw from Germany's World Cup squad after damaging injuring an ankle in a friendly against Armenia.

SEP 7, 2014 – Injured once again for Germany, this time during the Euro 2016 qualifier at home to Scotland.

Goals from everywhere...Reus celebrates scoring for Monchengladbach against Bayern

Euro star...taking on Bayern Munich in the 2013 Champions League Final at Wembley

play in the house."

At the age of five Reus played for PTSV Dortmund in the Schuren district of town. Even though he only had a bumpy ash pitch to perform on in those days, he would soon be showing glimpses of smoking-hot ability.

"I remember putting him on as a substitute in one of his first-ever games," says the then-PTSV coach Andrea Schurmann, one of the many football-crazy females in the Ruhr.

"Although he was the smallest on the pitch and was competing with boys who were two years older, it didn't stop him winning the game for us more or less on his own.

"I told my parents he would one day play for Dortmund."

Before that prophesy came to fruition, Reus spent some time working as a trainee salesman at a used-car publication while playing for Ahlen. But he was never going to need to make any cold calls to sweet-talk a transfer to the Bundesliga. Thanks to his outstanding work for Rot Weiss his name was on the lips of many an elite headhunter, and in the summer of 2009 he jumped at the chance of a €1m switch to western German powerhouse Borussia Monchengladbach.

After watching him play no fewer than 20 times for Ahlen bfore signing him, Gladbach would have assumed they had completed the most thorough of surveys. But even they must have been stunned by the way Reus went on to take the Bundesliga by storm.

> "The biggest adventure you can take is to live your dreams"
>
> **One of Reus' two tattoos; the other has his name and date of birth**

Announcing his arrival at Borussia Park with a breathtaking solo goal against Mainz in only his third appearance, he would be preaching to the converted for the next three years. Not only did he establish himself as the club's top forward – 36 goals and 25 assists – he also won his first full cap, in 2011 against Turkey, and played at Euro 2012.

Rare were the moments at Gladbach when he only appeared to be operating on standby. Always in motion and in high gear, he had extremely fast feet and always seemed to be setting the bar ever higher, improving his consistency and ability as a finisher, and becoming more versatile. He could play on either wing, in the hole or up front and was always willing to track back.

While Reus is invariably associated with mazy runs and thrilling goals, Gladbach director of sport Max Eberl would often praise him for his fighting spirit and match-day intelligence. Complicated tactical set-ups are a speciality of the Gladbach coach, Lucien Favre, but, according to Eberl, Reus was always the first to decode all the information presented to him.

Shortly after his announcement, early in 2012, that he had decided to join Dortmund the following season, certain pundits argued he would not be a good tactical fit, that he did not have the discipline or inclination to fully take part in the intense pressing patterns espoused by Jurgen Klopp. How wrong the doubters were.

Good at shutting down passing lanes and quick to harry defenders on the ball, Reus works as hard as anyone when Dortmund are not in possession and arguably no one better exemplifies the credo of all-action coach Klopp.

The key role Reus played in Dortmund's run to the Champions League Final in 2013 cannot be stressed enough. Scoring four goals and creating as many again, more often than not he was unstoppable, nominally wide on the left but in reality roaming here, there and everywhere – one minute linking with main striker Robert Lewandowski, the next probing the attacking-third with best pal Mario Gotze.

Call it destiny, unfinished business or the lure of home, but quitting Gladbach to join Dortmund in 2012 was simply something Reus had to do. Bayern Munich were also in the hunt and he would have earned far more at the Allianz-Arena – reportedly double the €3m a year he is paid at Dortmund – but ultimately it was his heart which spoke loudest. His parents, friends and girlfriend were all in Dortmund and it was the team he had always supported.

It was a case of going back to where it all began, where his first footballing chapter was written. **WS**

Nuisance value... causing chaos in the Greece defence during the Euro 2012 quarter-finals

Marco REUS

TEAM TALK

2013 UEFA TEAM OF THE YEAR

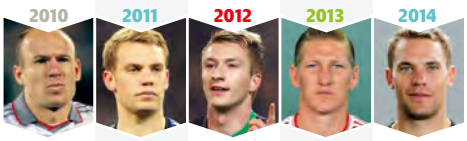
MONEY MATTERS

TRANSFER FEE FROM GLADBACH TO DORTMUND

€17.1m

BUNDESLIGA'S BEST

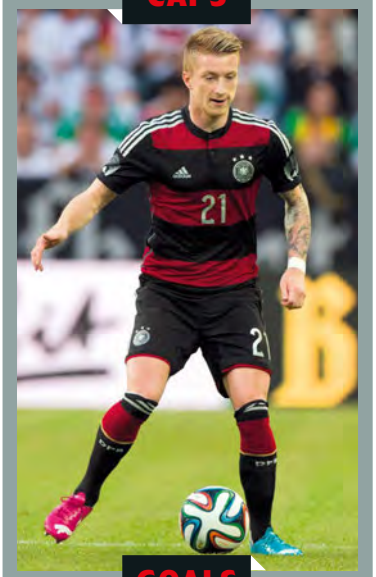
GERMAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR



2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ARJEN ROBBEN Bayern Munich	MANUEL NEUER Schalke	MARCO REUS Borussia M'Glad	BASTIAN SCHWEINSTEIGER B Munich	MANUEL NEUER Bayern Munich

GERMANY

23 CAPS

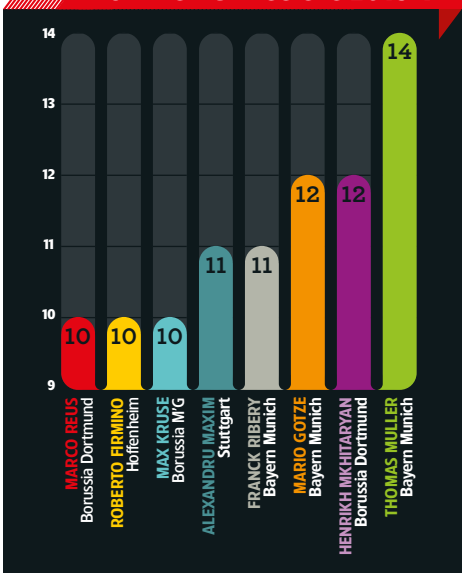


7 GOALS

DID YOU KNOW?

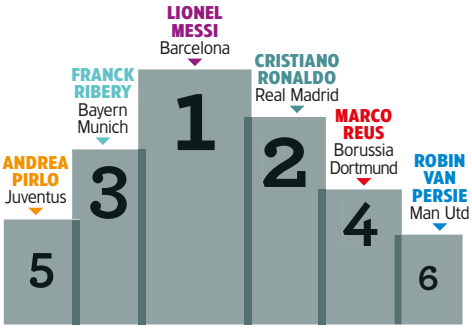
Reus is nicknamed "Woody Woodpecker" by team-mates due to his resemblance to the cartoon character.

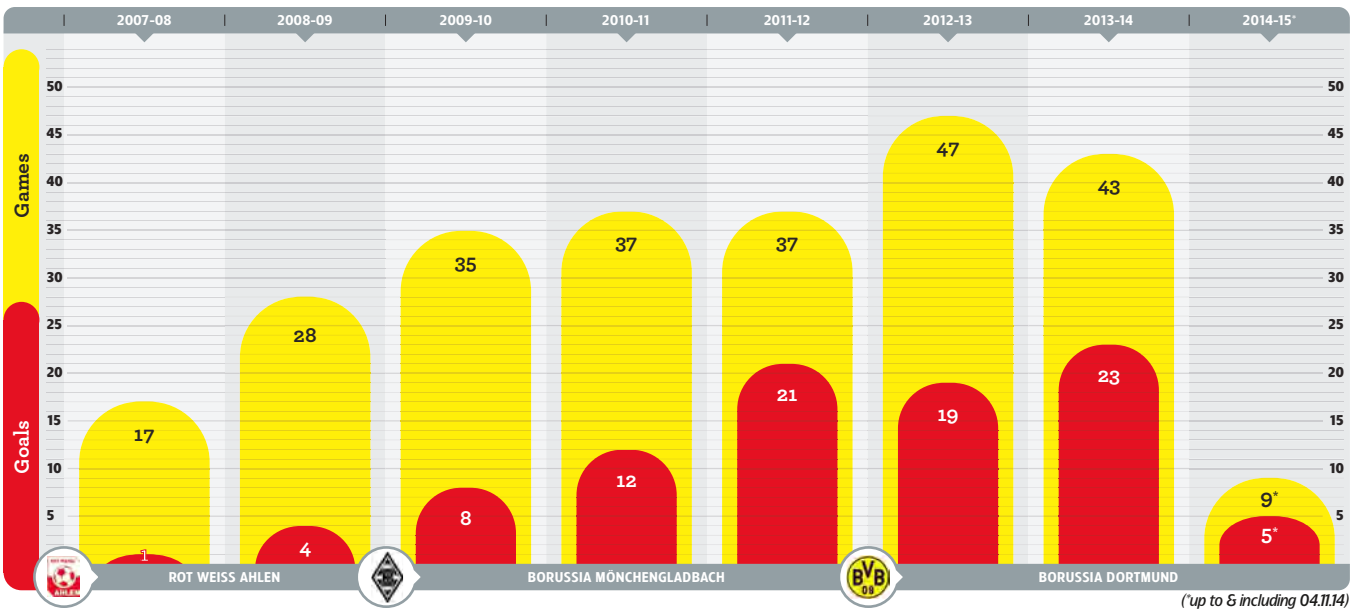
BUNDESLIGA ASSISTS 2013-14



HIGHLY RATED

2013 BLOOMBERG SPORTS TOP PLAYERS IN EUROPE





(*up to & including 04.11.14)

Cracking the combination

Have Argentina finally found a way to play Carlos Tevez and Lionel Messi in the same team? Jonathan Wilson investigates

It's one of the quirks of international football that countries sometimes have two hugely gifted players whose styles are incompatible. How England must have wished when Stanley Matthews and Tom Finney were in their prime that one of them had been left-footed. How Italy must have wished that either Gianni Rivera or Sandro Mazzola had been born 10 years earlier. Why did Steven Gerrard and Frank Lampard have to be contemporaries?

New Argentina coach Gerardo Martino, similarly, would surely swap Carlos Tevez for a left-back of similar quality.

For at least five years, Argentinian football has been wracked by the issue of what to do with Tevez.

Since Lionel Messi began operating as a false nine at Barcelona, he has been unable or unwilling to go back to the flank where he began his professional career, even when ostensibly deployed there. This is a return to how he used to be. His youth coaches speak of how they would play Messi on the wing and find him constantly moving to play where a classic number 10 would – even if most Argentinians insist his style is too dynamic for him to be considered a classic *enganche* (hook) in the style of Juan Roman Riquelme.

> "Messi is the world's number one and I think I have been saying this for a long time. Playing with him is the greatest pleasure a player can have"
>
> **Carlos Tevez on his countryman**

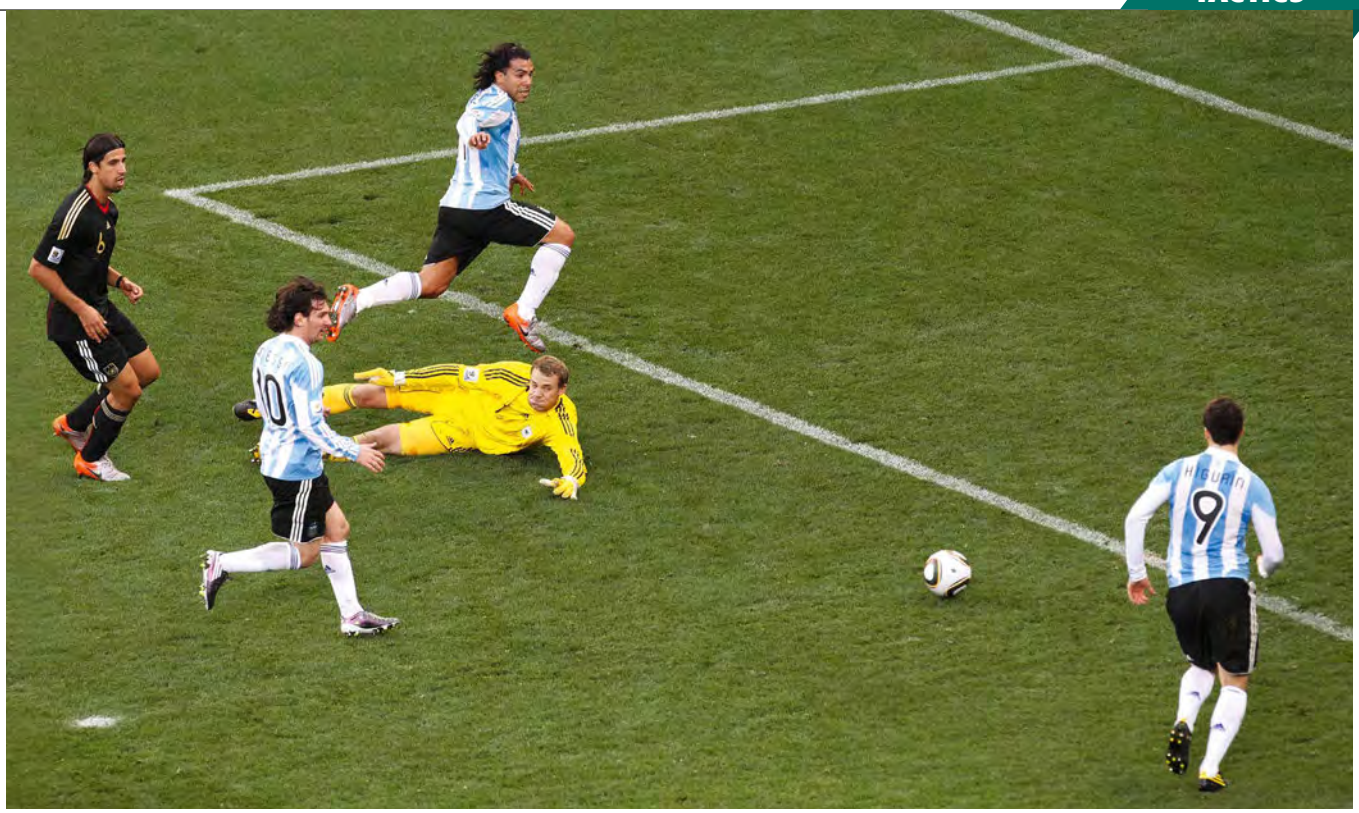
That has proved problematic for the likes of Samuel Eto'o, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thierry Henry at Barcelona, all of whom found themselves having to significantly modify their games in order to accommodate Messi.

At the World Cup in 2010, Diego Maradona deployed Messi behind Gonzalo Higuain and Tevez, but even then they often ended up trying to operate in the same space, with Tevez dropping back as Messi pushed forwards, or dropping so deep that his creative threat was diminished. Perhaps at club level they could have found an understanding – as Cristiano Ronaldo, Tevez and Wayne Rooney did, thrillingly, at Manchester United – but in the limited time available to international sides it was impossible.

By 2011, at the Copa America, Sergio Batista was using a 4-3-1-2, with Messi in that *enganche* position behind Tevez and Ezequiel Lavezzi. After two games, stilted draws against Bolivia and Colombia, he switched to a 4-2-3-1, with Messi on the right and no Tevez – until he came off the bench in the quarter-final against Uruguay. It resulted in an improved performance in a win over a weakened Costa Rica – for what that was worth – and much grumbling given Tevez's position as "*el jugador del pueblo*". That quarter-final made clear just how pronounced Messi's inward drift from the right was. After Uruguay's Diego Perez had been sent off before half-time, their coach, Oscar Tabarez, played without a left-sided midfielder, confident that Messi would come off the flank into the crowded centre anyway.

That game marked something of a sea change in Argentina's reaction to Tevez. He had only been recalled to Batista's squad before the tournament because of public pressure, but his petulance after coming off the bench – and his missed penalty in the

Back...Tevez came off the bench in the latter stages of a friendly against Croatia



Trio...Tevez, Messi (no10) and Higuan on the attack against Germany in the 2010 World Cup

shoot-out – seemed to lead to an acceptance that perhaps he was a problem rather than the solution.

When Tevez was then banned by Manchester City after his refusal to warm up during the Champions League game away to Bayern Munich, Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella was given the perfect excuse to leave him out – something he continued to do for three years. Deeming him a disruptive presence when not a first choice, he didn't even include him in squads.

The problem came at the World Cup in Brazil, when Argentina's array of forwards began going down with injury. First Higuain, then Sergio Aguero and then Angel Di Maria. It was only natural to look at the bench and wish it was Tevez sitting there rather than Rodrigo Palacio.

Realistically, Martino had little choice but to bring Tevez back. His first friendly brought a Di Maria-inspired 4-2 win away to Germany. His second was a stroll against Hong Kong. For the third, having taken time to assess his options, waiting so that the decision wouldn't look like a criticism of Sabella, he recalled Tevez.

Significantly, he didn't start the Juventus forward against Croatia at Upton Park. Aguero was used through the middle – where he is surely more effective than on the left, the position he has often adopted when Higuain has played – with Messi on one flank and Di Maria on the other.

As though determined not to fall into the trap so many of his predecessors have of trying to squeeze too many of Argentina's crop of hugely talented forwards into the side, Martinez has so far opted for a fairly strict 4-3-3, with Javier Mascherano flanked by two of Enzo Perez, Lucas Biglia and Ever Banega.

The effect is, therefore, seven largely defensive players plus a fluid and mobile front three, the two linked by Di Maria shuttling back and the forward surges of Pablo Zabaleta and the two "*carrilleros*" either side of Mascherano.

What was telling against an admittedly weak Croatia was that Messi did largely stick to the right flank. His touch map showed around two-thirds of his touches in the right-third of the pitch, and another third in the centre. He wasn't constantly drifting infield, although he did so at times. The issue, really, is one of balance. The major part of the threat Messi presents comes in those central areas; it's just that if he always goes there he can unbalance the team.

The discipline seemed better against Croatia, though, and brought a 2-1 win. Tevez appeared for only the final 28 minutes, replacing Aguero, but there were signs that perhaps an understanding could be forged. It's one thing to do it in the final minutes of a friendly, of course, quite another to do it from the start in a competitive game, but the likelihood now must be that Tevez is included in the squad for next summer's Copa America.

For years, Argentina have made their glut of good forwards a negative. With a little sacrifice all round, it could become the strength it ought to be. **WS**

ARGENTINA v CROATIA, W 2-1, 12.11.14

(* Tevez replaced Aguero in the 62nd minute)

Choices...Martino waited before recalling Tevez

ClubFocus

OLYMPIQUE MARSEILLE

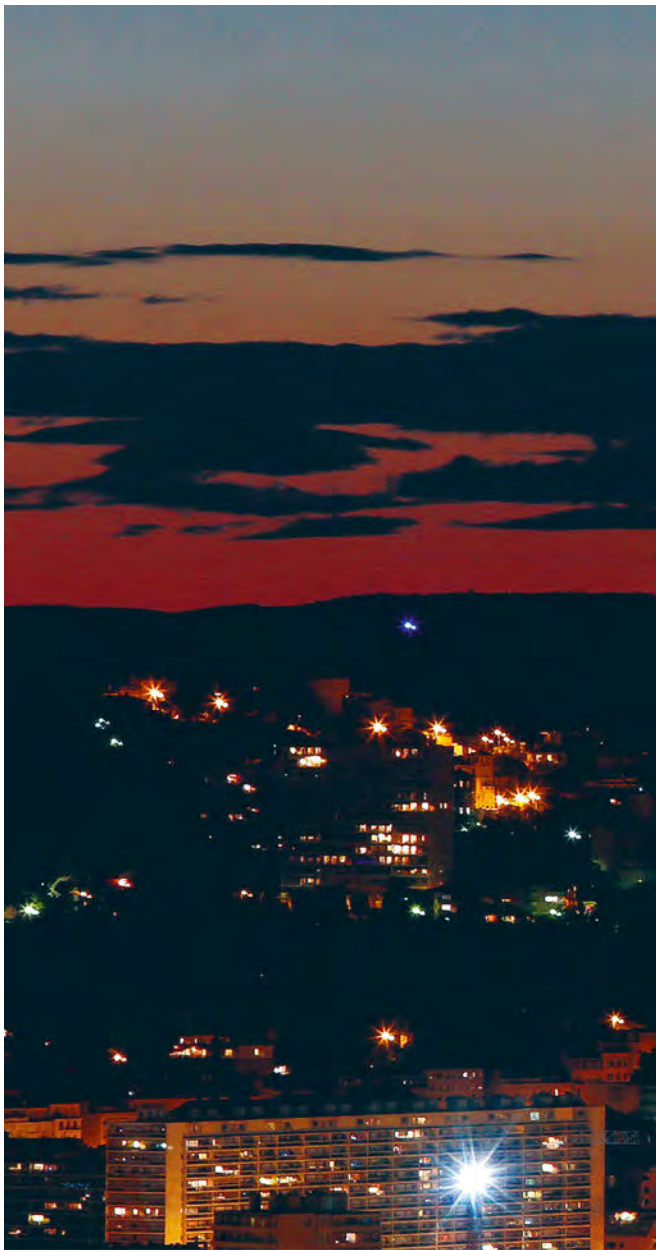
Southern revival

France's biggest club can't compete with Qatari-funded PSG but there are signs of hope under new coach Marcelo Bielsa. **Howard Johnson reports**

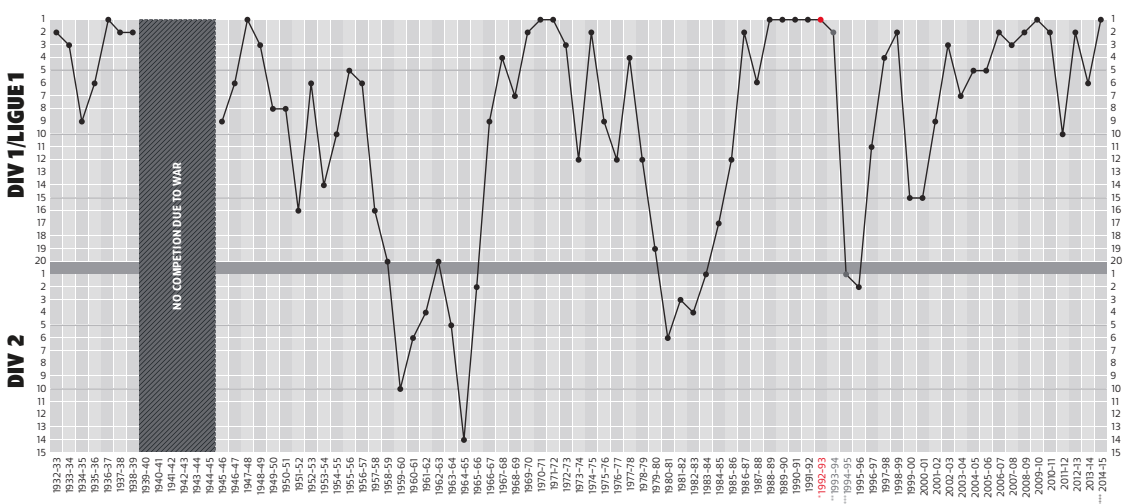
There have been plenty of black days in the history of Olympique de Marseille. The hideous scarring of a 10-3 home loss to Saint-Etienne in 1952. Going bust and being placed into liquidation in 1981. The bribery scandal surrounding a game against Valenciennes in 1993 that resulted in the league title being taken away, a ban from Europe and eventual demotion to the second division.

But the darkest day in the club's recent history has to be May 31, 2011 – despite the fact you won't find it marked in any OM history book. That's because it was the day Qatar Sports Investments bought a 70 per cent equity stake in hated rivals Paris Saint-Germain – and in doing so irrevocably changed the dynamic between the two clubs.

The Qatari money saw PSG muscle in at European football's top table in double quick time, leaving Marseille trailing in their wake and struggling to ➤



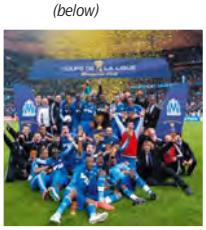
MARSEILLE LEAGUE POSITIONS 1932 - 2014

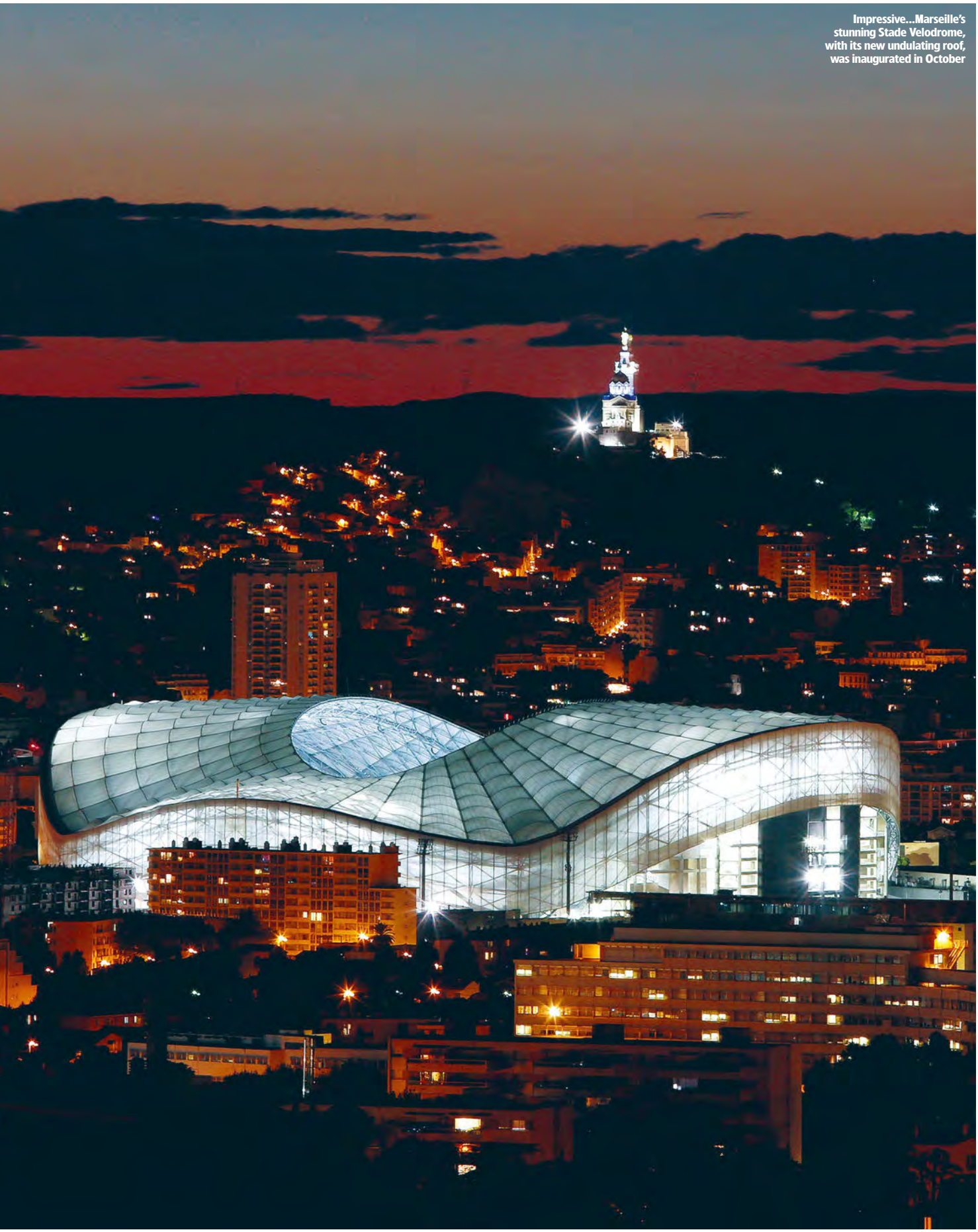


* Disqualified ** Relegated *** No Progress **** up to & including 23.10.14

CUP SUCCESS

1924	French Cup
1926	French Cup
1927	French Cup
1935	French Cup
1938	French Cup
1943	French Cup
1969	French Cup
1971	French Super Cup
1972	French Cup
1976	French Cup
1989	French Cup
1993	Champions League
2010	French League Cup
2010	French Super Cup
2011	French League Cup
2011	French Super Cup
2012	French League Cup *(below)*





Impressive...Marseille's stunning Stade Velodrome, with its new undulating roof, was inaugurated in October

provide any meaningful competition.

Yes, the club's principal shareholder Margarita Louis-Dreyfus is one of the country's richest women – having inherited the fortune of her husband, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, who was OM's bankroller to the tune of over €200million before his death in 2009. But even an estimated personal fortune of €4.5billion is no match for the Qataris, especially when Mrs Louis-Dreyfus made it clear from the start that she wasn't interested in simply chucking money into the club and that Marseille had to make sense as a business in its own right.

With no war chest to speak of, Marseille have been fighting with one hand tied behind their back in recent times. A 10th-place finish in 2012, followed by second in 2013 and sixth in 2014, isn't what you'd call an unmitigated disaster. But with PSG having notched up consecutive league titles in the last two campaigns, while also imposing themselves on the European stage, it's clearly not good enough for Marseille's fanatical support.

Marseille has never been a straightforward place to play your football. The club has been dogged over the years by a number of unsavoury rumours. Stories that it has been systematically infiltrated by Mafioso types have persisted since the days of Bernard Tapie – a businessman of dubious reputation who served time in the wake of the 1993 bribery scandal – and more recently Jose Anigo, a former Marseille player and coach whose son, Adrien, was assassinated in broad daylight in a suspected gangland killing in 2013. Anigo has always denied any involvement with the criminal fraternity, but after leaving his post as sporting director and taking over as interim coach following the sacking of Elie Baup in December 2013, Anigo quickly left town and moved to Monaco while continuing to work for OM's African recruitment operation.

Marseille's first game at the revamped Stade Velodrome, against Toulouse in October, set a new club record attendance of 61,846

The feeling that Marseille is bandit country hasn't been helped by the constant targeting of players by hoodlums either. Since 2011, a number of OM stars have had their homes invaded and burgled, often in frightening circumstances. The worst case was in July 2011, when Brazilian defender Hilton was attacked and robbed by six armed men with their faces covered. Hilton was so shaken by the incident that he immediately left Marseille for Montpellier. But such incidents are still happening today, with midfielder Mario Lemina forced to hand over his credit card and pin number when thugs broke into his home this April, and star striker

THE POWER CURVE

The key figures behind Marseille

VINCENT LABRUNE
Started out in TV and marketing, and met former OM owner Robert Louis-Dreyfus through a mutual love of boxing. After running Louis-Dreyfus' holding company and keeping an eye on the club, he became president two years after RLD's death at the insistence of Margarita.

MARGARITA LOUIS-DREYFUS
The Russian is one of France's richest women and the majority shareholder in the club. Rumours that she would sell her stake after her husband's death in 2009 have proved unfounded, and Labrune is now her eyes and ears on the ground at OM.

THOMAS FERNANDEZ
The head of the club's academy was brought in by former coach Elie Baup and is under pressure to produce more players from an underperforming system in recent times.

JEAN-PHILLIPE DURAND
A former player who has held numerous positions since retiring in 1997, from communications to technical development. He is currently charged with heading up Marseille's recruitment department.

PHILIPPE PEREZ
The director general has been at Marseille since 2011 and has responsibility for the club's overall well-being and finances.

Fanatical...the OM fans' love for their own club is only matched by their loathing of PSG

Andre-Pierre Gignac having a number of vehicles stolen from his home in Cassis, 25 miles from the city, in March.

It is against such a background that current president Vincent Labrune – who was installed by Margarita Louis-Dreyfus in June 2011 and is a long-time confidant of the Louis-Dreyfus family – has been trying to rebuild the club's reputation, both on and off the pitch. Labrune has been insistent that Marseille is a clean club and one that can prosper while still living within its means. Supporters, it's fair to say, have been sceptical. But one man has almost single-handedly managed to turn cynicism into optimism this season – and that man is coach Marcelo Bielsa.

The Argentinian arrived at Marseille in the summer on a two-year deal, tasked with challenging PSG and a newly emergent Monaco for the title. Given the squad at his disposal and the lack of major finances in place to support a transfer splash, the signs didn't look promising. And things didn't run particularly smoothly at the start as Bielsa, a devout Catholic known for speaking his mind, immediately went public about the shambolic nature of the club's pre-season recruitment campaign.

"I put forward the names of 12 players, but none of them were signed," he fumed. And what was worse, Bielsa also insisted that he had not approved the signings the club did make: Romain Alessandrini, Michy Batshuayi, Abdelazziz Barrada and Doria.

"We wanted Benjamin Stambouli or Toby Alderweireld," he continued in fabulously indiscreet fashion.

Prolific...Gignac (left) celebrates yet another goal, with team-mate Mendy

Such public spats usually indicate more serious problems behind the scenes. Many were therefore pessimistic about peace breaking out and Marseille offering any kind of resistance to the PSG juggernaut. Which proves just how wrong you can be.

Not only have Bielsa's side put up a proper fight, they've also tweaked the nose of their arch-rivals and upset both the form book and the apple cart and led the league deep into November. And nothing highlights this astonishing turnaround in fortunes more than the fact that after 11 games it wasn't Zlatan Ibrahimovic leading the goalscorers table but Gignac, who had 10 goals to his name, compared to Ibra's five.

Outspoken...Bielsa has left no one in any doubt who is in charge since his arrival in the summer

This is much more like it for a club with such a proud history. Since being founded in 1899, OM have racked up 10 league titles, 10 French Cups, three League Cups and one European Cup, while being far and away the most popular club in France. L'OM is a religion for many up and down the country and the atmosphere inside Marseille's home stadium, the Velodrome, is capable of making the hairs on the back of anyone's neck stand up.

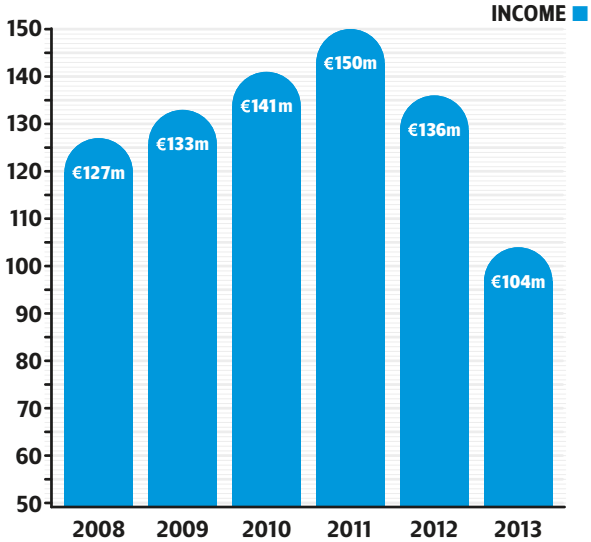
The list of wonderful players who have worn the famous white shirt, meanwhile, reads like a "Best Of" of world football. Jean-Pierre Papin, Didier Deschamps, Chris Waddle, Basile Boli, Abedi Pele, Fabien Barthez, Rudi Voller, Andreas Kopke, Laurent Blanc, Fabrizio Ravanelli, Franck Ribery, Dragan

PROFIT & LOSS

Marseille cannot hope to compete with the financial might of rivals Paris Saint-Germain. But as France's best-supported club and regular participants in the Champions League, they have enjoyed annual revenues in excess of €100m for the past decade.

A small profit of €230,000 was announced for the 2012-13 financial year, so the club have had no trouble in complying with UEFA's Financial Fairplay regulations.

Income dipped in 2013, after failure to make the Champions League for the 2012-13 season, followed by an early exit from the Europa League. In addition, the Stade Velodrome's capacity dropped to 42,000 while the stadium was redeveloped for Euro 2016. However, future revenues are likely to increase with an expanded capacity of 67,000.



Highlight...victory over Milan in the 1993 Champions League Final

Stojkovic, Marcel Desailly, Jean Tigana, Alen Boksic, Didier Drogba...

"You have to understand the Marseille philosophy," said Papin when asked to explain what makes the club special. "They want quality players, but they also want players who'll die for the cause. Once you've truly understood that, then you know what it is that you need to do. You have to work hard and want it more than anyone else, because Marseille is a club where no matter what, you can't leave people feeling indifferent about you."

It remains to be seen if Bielsa can pull off the unthinkable and claim the title in his first season and a first for the club in five years. The cold, hard fact is that PSG have an infinitely more talented squad than Marseille, where there are really no superstar talents – unless you count the 21-year-old attacking midfielder Florian Thauvin. The former Bastia man has natural ability in abundance and if he continues to progress at his current rate he will surely be a star of the future. You could perhaps make arguments for central defender Nicolas N'Koulou, and attacking midfielder Dimitri Payet is certainly no slouch, but the real secret of Marseille's current success lies in hard work, excellent fitness, a good tactical understanding and desire to press high up the pitch.

That and a willingness to die for the cause à la Papin... WS

> "I didn't know Marseille had pulled off such a run of results before. It gives me great joy that we have managed it"
>
> OM coach Bielsa on equalling the club record of eight straight victories

Potential... OM defender Morel (right) in action against Montpellier

THE COACH

Marcelo BIELSA (Arg)
Age 59 (21.07.55)

"The best manager in the world" according to Pep Guardiola, he had an undistinguished playing career with Newell's Old Boys before retiring at the age of 25 to become a coach. After leading Newell's, he coached in Mexico with Atlas and America before returning to his homeland with Velez Sarsfield. A brief move to Spain with Espanyol ended when he was offered the Argentina job, a position he held for six years before taking over Chile. He returned to Spain with Athletic Bilbao in 2011 and earned many plaudits before things turned sour in 2013. He left the club at the end of June and took over at Marseille in May 2014.

THE STADIUM

STADE VELODROME
Renovated for Euro 2016, the stadium can now hold 67,000 fans and has a roof for the first time. The ground was first opened in 1937 and upgraded ahead of the 1998 World Cup.

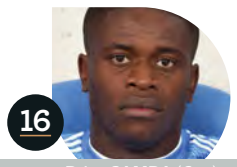
THE KIT

HOME KIT SECOND KIT THIRD KIT

THE SQUAD

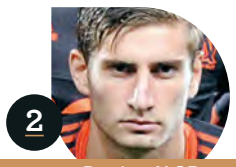
GOALKEEPERS

30 Steve MANDANDA
Age 29 (28.03.85)
First choice since arriving in 2005, he has captained France but never really established himself. Had a trial with Aston Villa.



16 Brice SAMBA (Con)
Age 20 (25.04.94)
Signed from Le Havre in 2013, he is the son of the former Congo international keeper of the same name.

DEFENDERS

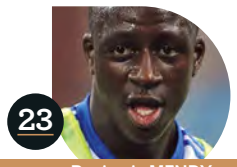


2 Baptiste ALOE
Age 20 (29.06.94)
Central defender who has been at Marseille for 11 years. Made his debut in a Europa League game against AEL Limassol.

26 Brice DJA DJEDJE (IvC)
Age 23 (23.12.90)
Started his career at PSG, but joined OM from Evian in January and has ousted Fanni from the right-back berth.

4 DORIA (Bra)
Age 20 (08.11.94)
Arrived from Botafogo in the summer for €5m, but is only on the fringes of the first team. Has made one senior appearance for Brazil.

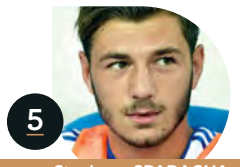
24 Rod FANNI
Age 32 (06.12.81)
Right-back signed from Rennes in 2010 who has played over 100 games for OM. Capped five times during the Raymond Domenech era.



23 Benjamin MENDY
Age 20 (17.07.94)
A left-back with Senegalese parents who joined OM from Le Havre in 2013. Capped by France at under 16, 17, 18 and 19 levels.

15 Jeremy MOREL
Age 30 (02.04.84)
Joined the club in 2011 after nine seasons with Lorient and has since made well over 100 appearances for OM.

3 Nicolas N'KOULOU (Cam)
Age 24 (27.03.90)
Central defender and captain of his national side. Began his career in France with Monaco, joined OM in 2011 and is now a big fans' favourite.



5 Stephane SPARAGNA
Age 19 (17.02.95)
An athletic, Marseille-born central defender who is a product of the club's academy and made his senior debut at the start of this season.

MIDFIELDERS

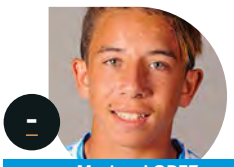
11 Romain ALESSANDRINI
Age 25 (03.04.89)
Played for OM as a boy but gave up the game at 16. Impressive spells at Clermont and Rennes saw him rejoin this summer.

6 Momar BANGOURA
Age 20 (24.02.94)
Born in the Senegalese capital of Dakar, but has been at Marseille for the last 11 years. Still waiting for his first-team breakthrough.

27 Abdelaziz BARRADA (Mor)
Age 25 (19.06.89)
Started with PSG before two seasons in Spain with Getafe. Came back to France this summer after a spell in Abu Dhabi with Al Jazira.

25 Gianelli IMBULA
Age 22 (12.09.92)
Left-sided dribbling midfielder of Congolese origin who was born in Belgium but grew up in France and opted for French nationality.

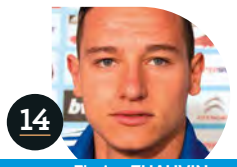
8 Mario LEMINA
Age 21 (01.09.93)
Defensive midfielder born in Gabon, but raised in France. Started with Lorient before signing for Marseille in 2013 for €4m.



- Maxime LOPEZ
Age 16 (04.12.97)
Attacking midfielder whose style has been compared to Lionel Messi. Signed his first pro contract in July, despite interest from Liverpool.

- Alexander N'DOUMBOU (Gab)
Age 22 (04.01.92)
Versatile Gabon international of Chinese origin who came up through the club's youth ranks. Spent the 2011-12 season on loan at Orleans.

20 Alaixys ROMAO (Tog)
Age 30 (18.01.84)
Togolese international born in France with a half century of caps to his name. Joined from Lorient in 2013.

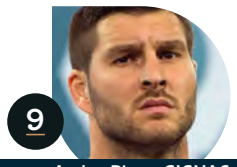


14 Florian THAUVIN
Age 21 (26.01.93)
One of the hottest properties in French football. Battled back from a serious stress fracture of the back at the start of his career.

10 Andre AYEW (Gha)
Age 24 (17.12.89)
Son of Marseille legend Abedi Pele and older brother of Lorient striker Jordan, he was born in France but plays for Ghana.

FORWARDS

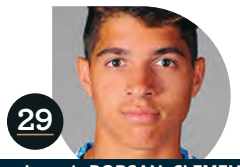
22 Michy BATSHUAYI (Blg)
Age 21 (02.10.93)
Belgium under-21 star of Congolese extraction signed from Standard Liege in June for €7m. Only just missed out on the 2014 World Cup.



9 Andre-Pierre GIGNAC
Age 28 (05.12.85)
In fine form this season, scoring 10 goals in the first 10 league games and earning a recall to the national side, scoring against Armenia.

- Billel OMRANI
Age 21 (02.06.93)
His older brother Abdelhakim plays for Nimes and sister Yasmina is a professional heptathlete. Spent last season on loan at Arles-Avignon.

17 Dimitri PAYET
Age 27 (29.03.87)
France international who joined Marseille from Lille for €10million in the summer of 2013, quickly establishing himself as a key performer.



29 Jeremie PORSAN-CLEMENTE
Age 16 (16.12.97)
A product of the Marseille youth system who made his first-team debut as a sub against Montpellier in August.

(All ages as of 28.11.14)

"I will never be a defender and will never know how to defend"

Facetoface

EDEN HAZARD

"There's been some big rows in the dressing room but that's our business"

The 23-year-old attacking midfielder talks about his relationship with Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho and why he's yet to display his best form for Belgium

You always seem to get your season off to a good start – and this one has certainly been no exception...
That's true. It's gone very well; collectively as well as individually. Even if the statistics don't really prove it, it's possibly the best start I've ever had to a season.

Does it bother you that it hasn't resulted in more goals and assists ?
No, not at all, especially when you look at the performances. Since the beginning of this season, I've only had one average match and that was against Aston Villa. Apart from that one, I've played well in all [Chelsea's] games. I enjoyed plenty of rest during the summer, I prepared well in pre-season and, at the moment, I feel really good.

Nevertheless, Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho never seems to pass up an opportunity to criticise you...
We get on well. He remains the "Special One". There's much respect between us. He's the best coach in the world. What else can I say? He gives me a lot of confidence. Even after a bad match, he still picks me. He might have a little bite and claim we were playing with only 10 men, but it goes no further than that. In those moments, he leaves me alone and doesn't get on my case.

Did you have to get used to his habit of stirring up his players in the press?
It was the first time I'd ever known this with a coach. Others tended to protect me. He really wants to bring out every bit of my potential and does everything he can for that to happen.

Were you fearful for your place in the team when it was announced that Mourinho was returning to Chelsea?
I wasn't afraid, although I did ask myself whether I would stress out when he singled me out for criticism. I remember my first warm-up games with him in Asia; once or twice he "killed" me and I said to myself, "OK, so that's the Mourinho style". When he looks you in the eye, when you feel under attack, at the time it's not great. If you don't give 100 per cent, you just know he isn't going to let go, that there's going to be trouble. There's been some big rows in the dressing room, but that's our business. As long as you're not involved, it's funny to see all this. He has lived up to the image I had of him: a great coach who has won everything, who shares his experience and who is very close to his players. He defends us all the time.

Does Chelsea's current style of play suit you better?
Contrary to what some thought last season, I've always liked Chelsea's way of playing. I've lots of freedom in an attacking sense. Provided we're effective, we've licence to go where we want, to try whatever we like.

Has Chelsea's almost perfect start to the season surprised you?
No, because we weren't far away from becoming champions last season. We only finished four points behind Manchester City. With a slightly better run-in we would have come first. We're building on the good work of last season. With new players coming in and making a difference.

Are you talking about Diego Costa and Cesc Fabregas?
That's it. At the moment there's no better number nine than Costa. He's the type of attacker who can unblock a rotten match. What's more, he has a super mentality. He gives everything for the team, perhaps even a little too much.

Does the presence of Costa take the pressure off you?
As he's a very dangerous striker, he inevitably attracts defenders and that means less attention on me. Opponents also have to keep an eye on Fabregas'

More to come...in World Cup action against Algeria

quality passing and, once more, the result is more space for me.

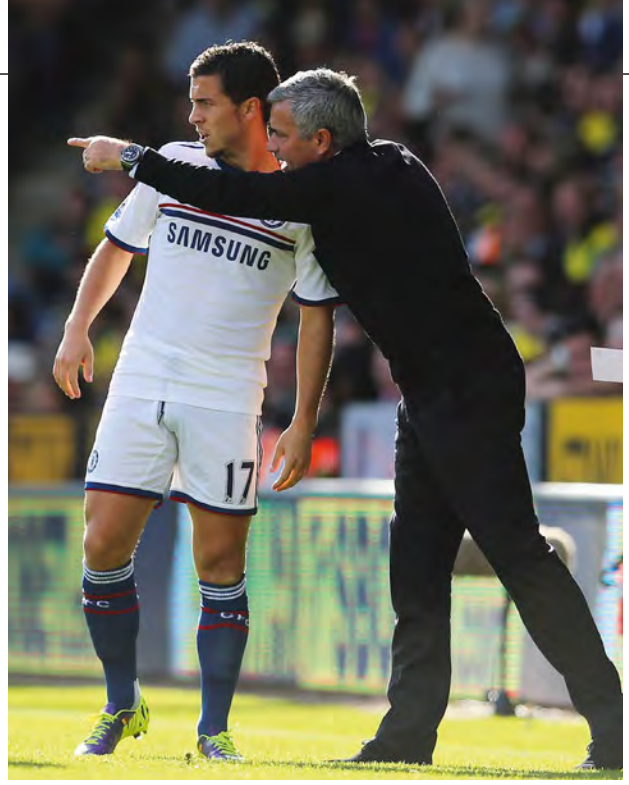
Has your good form in the first months of the season helped push you into the top-five best players in the world?
No, not yet. Maybe I'm not far away, but I've still work to do. I'll only come into this category when i'm decisive in big matches. Slowly but surely I'm becoming so – as proved by my displays against Arsenal and Manchester City.

Who is better than you in your opinion?
The two extra-terrestrials [Messi and Ronaldo], Ibrahimovic, Ribery, Robben.

Those sort of players are only judged on their numbers: goals, assists, penalties won. Is this the area you must improve in to make the top five?
Not especially. I've never been a stats type of player.

But last season you did manage 14 goals and seven assists in the league...
Decent statistics rather than exceptional ones. I shouldn't be judged on stats alone. At the end of every game, I know whether I was good or not. My best match this season probably was against Swansea and I didn't score and didn't make any goals. I was in the thick of it from start to finish. I took on defenders. I dribbled. I was really excellent.

Every month you seem to be linked with Paris Saint-Germain...
I've always been very clear. I'm very happy at Chelsea. PSG is a great club, but the French championship is nowhere near as strong as the Premier League. I've no desire to go back in time. I've already experienced everything in France: winning the league, the cup, the best youngster and best player awards. If I leave Chelsea one day, it will be to try something new.



Respect...Hazard says Mourinho is "the best coach in the world"

How do you judge your World Cup?
Not good; not bad. Like Lionel Messi with Argentina, I was expected to be the one to make the difference in every game. But it was my first World Cup and it shouldn't be forgotten I did succeed in being influential. Some have said I had a bad World Cup, but I don't agree. I'm being objective. It was neither good or bad. It wasn't catastrophic.

The impression is that the outstanding Hazard of Chelsea has not been seen in Belgium's national team...
I'm the same. I've never seen him. In the odd match, yes, but not consistently. It frustrates me. How can I produce super displays for Chelsea and not for Belgium. I play decently. However, it's not the Eden who carries the team. I don't want people to think that I come to the national team with a casual approach.

After Belgium's elimination, you criticised the lack of movement in Belgium's play...
What I said in the mixed zone was a consequence of a certain disappointment with my own performance against Argentina. Sometimes, after a defeat, you say things you later regret.

Do you understand all the post-World Cup criticism?
The public expected a lot of Belgium and they can say what they want, but we did have a good World Cup. Inside our camp, we were happy with what we achieved.

For a long time you've been attacked for your lack of defensive work rate. Do you think Mourinho has changed you in this regard?
I cannot say that he has taught me to operate defensively – for the simple reason that I'll never be a defender and will never know how to defend.

What is it you like most about football in England?
The sold-out grounds, the perfect pitches, the special atmosphere and, above all, the best championship in the world. Every week you come up against great players. It's very satisfying. English matches are played at 200 miles an hour. Defence to attack, attack to defence. There's no calculation. That's how you end up with results like our 6-3 win over Everton. We led 2-0 but continued to attack. And Everton never gave up either.

After such a result, how is Mourinho?
He wouldn't have been pleased with letting in three goals, but was happy all the same because we'd played well and won. He does have the label of a defensive coach, but he likes spectacle too.

Interview by Stephane Vande Velde (Foot/ESM)

On fire...Costa has made a fine start to his Chelsea career, scoring 10 goals in his first nine league games

SOCCERSTARZ.COM

SoccerStarz line up for Christmas

The 2014-15 season is set to be the biggest yet for SoccerStarz, with new teams launched and a brand new touring van unveiled. With some of the biggest club sides in the world, including Real Madrid, Manchester United, Barcelona and Bayern Munich, you will have no problem finding your favourite player. And we are delighted to announce that Borussia Dortmund, Crystal Palace and Stoke City will be joining the SoccerStarz stable, with figures scheduled for release in the near future.

Instantly recognisable, SoccerStarz are the officially-licensed mini-football figures with big heads. It doesn't matter if you prefer Falcao or Diego Costa – both will be available this Christmas, along with a host of new signings, including Angel Di Maria, Cesc Fabregas, Alexis Sanchez, Luis Suarez and James Rodriguez, to name but a few.

The SoccerStarz Van made its first appearance in October as it ventured north to the National Football Museum in Manchester. Parked outside the entrance of the museum, the SoccerStarz team handed out Blister Packs and Foil Bags to each visitor as they entered. The first 30 to arrive on the day were lucky enough to receive a voucher for the penalty shootout exhibit inside the museum.

@ctcsoccerstarz

The Van is now set to tour the UK and will make numerous stops at a variety of destinations, from football stadia to retail stores and even holiday parks. The van gives you the opportunity to start your collection and also gives you the chance to meet some of the SoccerStarz team.

A list of destinations will be available soon.

For more information on SoccerStarz go to **www.soccerstarz.com** or follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@ctcsoccerstarz).

Facetoface

MARCELO OLIVEIRA

"I treat players the way I'd like to be treated myself, with respect"

Coach of reigning Brazilian champions Cruzeiro, the 59-year-old is on course for a league and cup double this season

You've managed Cruzeiro for almost two years now, which seems an age in Brazil, where coaches are hired and fired with bewildering haste. What is the secret behind your success?
Success in football is never for one reason only. It's a combination of things. When we arrived we got rid of some players and brought in others who we believed could develop here, like Everton Ribeiro and Ricardo Goulart. The coaching staff at Cruzeiro is extremely dedicated, and the infrastructure and facilities of the club, which are really impressive, help a lot. We try to create a healthy working environment by telling the players how lucky they are to play here, to do something they enjoy, and to earn a lot of money, compared to most Brazilians.

Many leading Brazilian coaches tend to adopt a domineering, "alpha male" approach. But you seem to have a quieter, more thoughtful style...
I think every leadership style can be successful. Tele Santana [his boss when playing for Atletico Mineiro, and coach of Brazil's 1982 and 1986 World Cup squads] didn't raise his voice much either, but he demanded a lot from us in training. As a coach, I treat the players the way I'd like to be treated myself, with respect. And it's important to be consistent. There are 30 players in the squad at Cruzeiro and at some stage somebody will be unhappy because he's not playing. But if he understands there's consistency to the selection process he'll accept the decision and try harder to win back his place.

After the World Cup, some questioned the style of not just the national team but also the way the domestic game is played. Yet you have Cruzeiro playing a passing game based on speed. Where did this approach come from?
It's a philosophy. I believe that if you don't mark properly, you'll lose. So I try to get as many players as possible to press the opposition. Marking is about organisation, positioning and desire. If you couple that with a lot of technically gifted players, when you win the ball the outcome will generally be positive. We tell all our midfielders both to get into the opponent's box as much as possible and to track back when we lose the ball.

Who or what has most influenced your theories on the game?
Tele Santana was a major influence. His insistence on technique – on the fundamentals, like passing and working as a team – made a big impression. When you watch the best teams, like Barcelona and Bayern Munich, they play in a very simple way, with quick, short passing and the ball moving from player to player. It's much less complicated than trying to dribble past players.

What are some of the frustrations of being a coach in Brazil?
You've said I've been at Cruzeiro for almost two years, which for Brazil is seen as a long time. But it shouldn't be. A coach has to have two or three years to work so he can instil continuity and create a footballing philosophy. But in Brazil it all depends on results. If they don't come, the manager will be under pressure.

Where does this pressure come from? The media, the fans or the directors?
Directors who are at a club because of their egos or for political motives will always listen to the fans. They can't sack 10 players, so they get rid of the coach, which only fixes things temporarily. Clubs don't have a consistent approach to the game here because every three or four months they change everything: their philosophy, their physical preparation, their style of play.

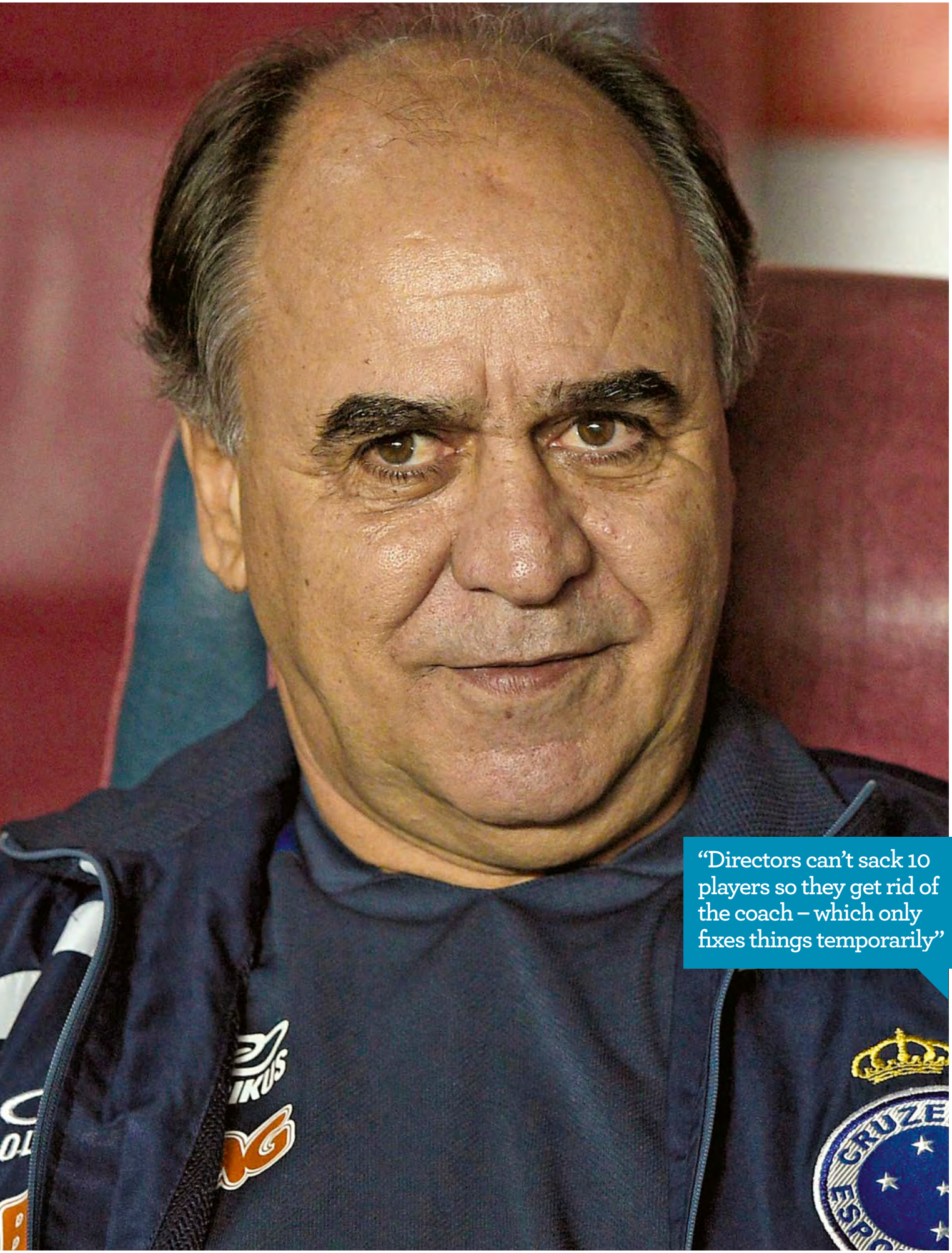
Does the overcrowded fixture calendar make life difficult?
Brazilian managers don't have time to coach. And if you don't coach, you're going to end up with poor-quality football. Last year we played over 60 games and this year we're going to play more than 70, with the World Cup break in the middle of the season. So we'll be playing a game every three days. Where are the opportunities to coach? The games become our training sessions. And after every round of fixtures another important player is injured. Something has to change.

How might that come about?
When those who are directly affected by the problems – the players and the coaches, for example – do something about it. When things are left up to the directors it's more difficult because there are financial considerations, and TV and the governing bodies get involved and there's less chance of change.

There seems to be a lack of young coaches coming through in Brazil, and even those that do well end up being hired and fired so often that their confidence suffers...
One thing leads to another. Moving from club to club doesn't allow coaches to grow. I try to use my own personal experiences at the end of every season to improve myself, asking what went well and what we can improve. But by the time December comes around you're exhausted, because of the pressure. Often you sleep badly or you don't sleep enough.

Do the domestic game's problems have a negative effect on the national team?
Of course. Dunga can't select more than two players from each team [the Brazilian fixture calendar means clubs play matches on or around FIFA international dates]. And the national team takes players away from clubs at vital moments. So the sides that do well are invariably punished because they play more, get tired and lose more players to international duty.

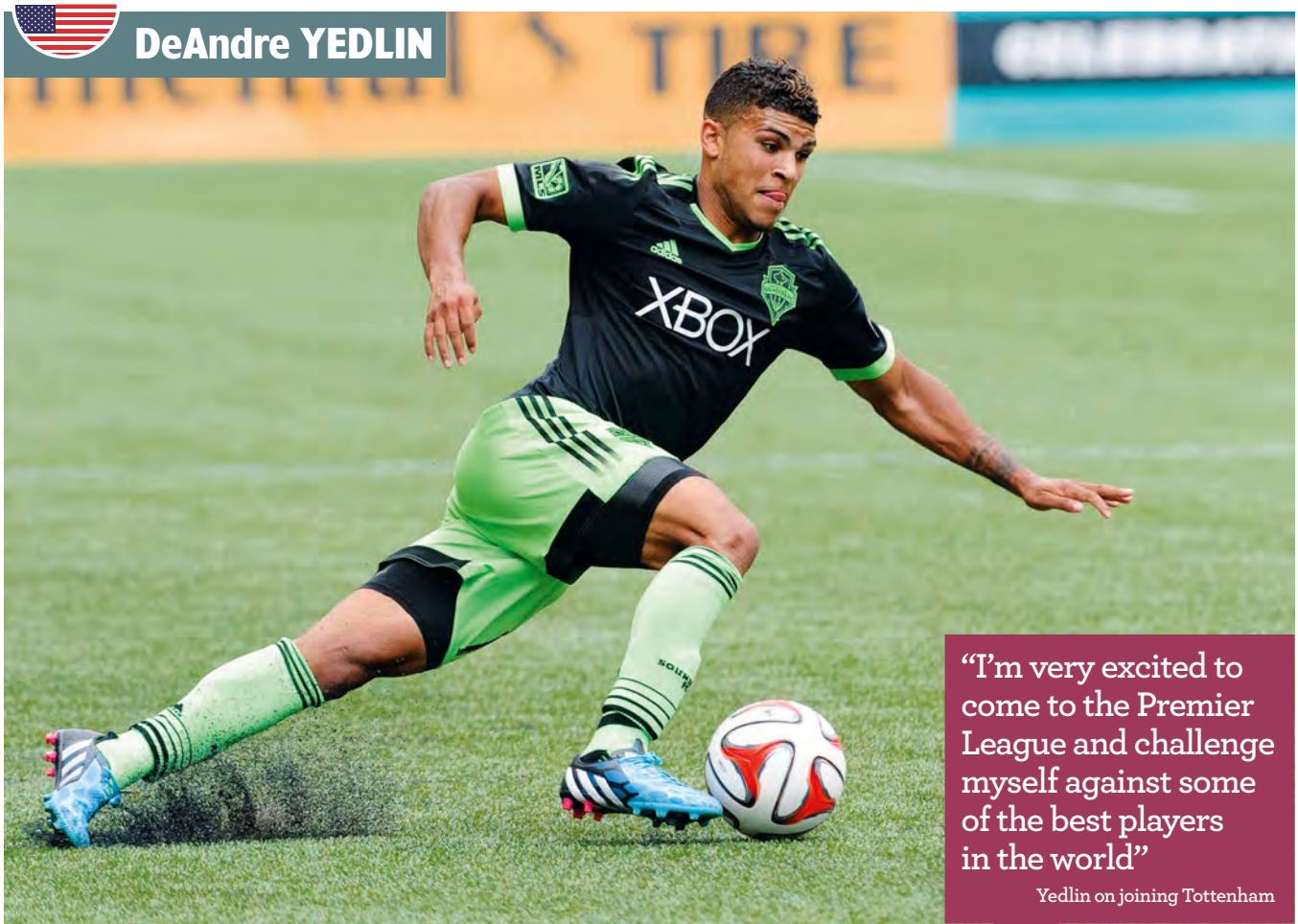
Interview by James Young



"Directors can't sack 10 players so they get rid of the coach – which only fixes things temporarily"

Talentscout

DeAndre YEDLIN



"I'm very excited to come to the Premier League and challenge myself against some of the best players in the world"

Yedlin on joining Tottenham

CLUB	Seattle Sounders (on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, Eng)
COUNTRY	USA
POSITION	Defender
AGE	21 (09.07.93)
CAPS	10 (0 goals)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	February 2014, v South Korea
PREVIOUS CLUB	Seattle Sounders
HONOURS	2014 US Open Cup, 2014 MLS Supporters' Shield

In the old NASL heyday of the 1970s, British legionnaires such as Jimmy Gabriel, Mike England, Roger Davies and Alan Hudson all ended up in Seattle. So how refreshing that the boot is now on the other foot, with Sounders' right-back Yedlin set to arrive in England next year.

The 21-year-old will join up with Tottenham Hotspur in January or June, having signed a four-year contract this August while remaining in the US on loan. Some feel it's too early for a youngster with just two seasons of MLS experience to be thrust into the Premier League bearpit, especially at such an underachieving club as Spurs. But if anyone can make the leap from the stateside Western Conference to the European mainstream, it is the former Sounders academy and University of Akron pupil; a player who has turned instant impact and nerveless performance under pressure into an art form.

During his inaugural MLS campaign for Seattle, in 2013, his performances were sufficiently impressive to earn him a place in the league's All-Star team – the first rookie to win a nomination since Michael Parkhurst of New England Revolution in 2005. And despite going to this year's World Cup finals with just 88 minutes of international playing time under his belt, he still managed to make his mark.

Brought on as a substitute in the group games against Portugal and Germany, and the round-of-16 loss to Belgium, his fearlessness, pacy incursions on the overlap and athleticism immediately marked him out as a huge prospect. And while USA coach Jurgen Klinsmann prefers not to publicly hype young players, the former Germany and Bayern Munich boss would definitely have been far more complimentary within the confines of the dressing room.

"It's been pretty wild," smiles Yedlin when he is asked about his amazing journey from college defender to appearing under a major international spotlight. "I dreamt of it. I wanted it. I hoped for it. But I never expected it."

With his great acceleration – he has been clocked at 4.2 seconds over 40 yards – Yedlin might have been able to make a living as an NFL punt returner or cornerback; or perhaps even a speedster on the baseball diamond. But what traditional US sports have lost, soccer unquestionably has gained.

Nick Bidwell

Albin EKDAL

CLUB	Cagliari (Ita)
COUNTRY	Sweden
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	25 (28.07.89)
CAPS	13 (0 goals)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	August 2011, v Ukraine
PREVIOUS CLUBS	Brommapojkarna, Juventus (Ita), Siena (Ita, loan), Bologna (Ita)

The son of Swedish TV host Lennart Ekdal – who fronts a crime-busting show – versatile midfielder Albin Ekdal is definitely positioning himself on the side of the good guys too.

One of his club's most consistent performers over the last year and a half, he scored a memorable 15-minute hat-trick as Cagliari emphatically beat Internazionale 4-1 at the San Siro in September. And like so many young players before him, he appears to be flourishing in the all-out attacking template of Zdenek Zeman, the enigmatic coach who pitched up at the Sardinian club this summer.

In previous campaigns, Ekdal's role for Cagliari – who he joined from Bologna three years ago – was essentially a withdrawn and regulatory one, under strict instruction to hold his position, intervene defensively and keep the ball moving.

> "Albin is ready for the next step. I do not want to reveal too much information about the clubs interested, but I can confirm that there are those interested"
>
> Ekdal's agent, Martin Klette

Such caution, however, is anathema to Zeman, and from the first day of pre-season training he removed the Swede's ball and chain, insisting that he push forward as much as possible. All three of his goals in the win at Inter were scored from close range, and given his coach's win-or-bust approach there should be many more to come.

Zeman's plan to unleash Ekdal certainly stacks up. In his formative years with Brommapojkarna and Sweden's youth sides, he was a dribble-happy attacking midfielder or winger. By redefining his brief, the Cagliari coach is getting the best of all worlds, with the 25-year-old's ability to maintain possession and dictate tempo now allied to a re-ignited sense of adventure.

Ekdal has had to be patient and resilient throughout his career. First brought to Italy as a 19-year-old by Juventus, he quickly faded away, only appearing three times in Serie A before leaving for a loan spell with Siena and then a co-ownership arrangement with Bologna.

His career with the national team followed a similar trajectory, making his debut over three years ago but never able to carve out a niche for himself until recently, under Erik Hamren.

His agent hints that he is looking to move on – and if that's true, Cagliari will badly miss him.

Nick Bidwell

Diego ROLAN

CLUB	Bordeaux (Fra)
COUNTRY	Uruguay
POSITION	Forward
AGE	21 (24.03.93)
PREVIOUS CLUB	Defensor
CAPS	5 (0 goals)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	September 2014, v Japan

In stark contrast to Bordeaux coach Willy Sagnol – who, within weeks of his appointment this summer, had the club rocketing up the Ligue 1 table – Uruguayan winger Rolan has required considerably more time to make an impact at the Stade Chaban-Delmas.

Signed from Montevideo side Defensor shortly after catching the eye with his goals and exuberant play at the 2013 South American Youth Championship, he spent his first 18 months with Bordeaux in a semi-detached haze, clearly ill-at-ease in the often fearful and pedestrian tactical set-up of the then-coach Francis Gillot.

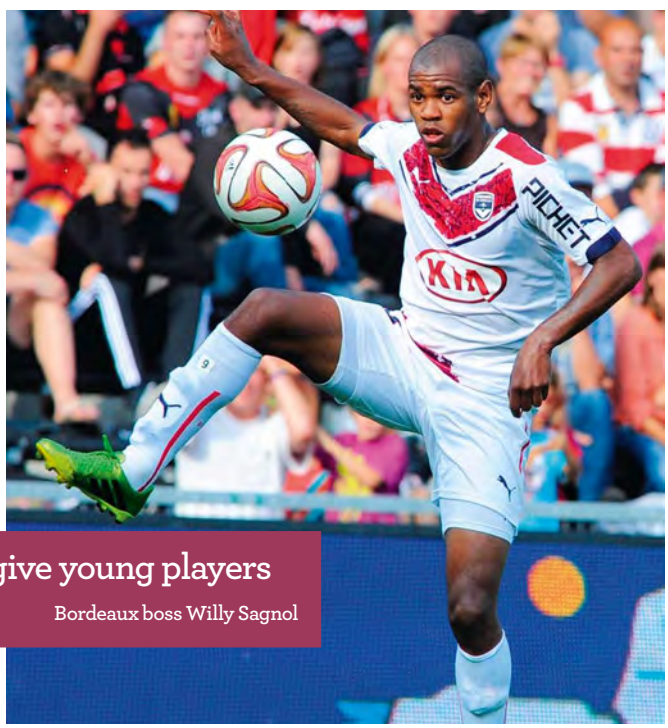
But just as the Bordeaux fans were ready to write off the 21-year-old, he finally located the on switch, and for the past few months he has been revitalised and proved himself to be enterprising, confident and extremely effective as a goalscorer.

"I did suffer to begin with in France," admits Rolan, who won silver with the Uruguay under-20s at the 2013 World Championships and made his full debut for the senior side this autumn.

"After just two months in Bordeaux, I was thinking of heading back to Montevideo and went to see the club president to tell him so.

"I found it very hard to adapt. I struggled with the French language and found the Ligue 1 style of play to be much more physical than I was used to back home. I was young, I didn't have my family or girlfriend with me, and picked up ankle and thigh injuries as well. Thankfully, my life is much better now."

> "It's a good thing to give young players their chance"
>
> Bordeaux boss Willy Sagnol



All credit to Sagnol for providing the best framework for Rolan to prosper in. His decision to play the Uruguayan in a slightly deeper role on the right gives him more space to work with, and with the support of an attacking right-back – either Julien Faubert or Mariano – he also has total licence to prowl in the box.

"In an attacking sense, Willy Sagnol offers us lots of freedom," says Rolan. "He puts his faith in young players and the atmosphere is so much better than last year."

Nick Bidwell

Joao MARIO

CLUB	Sporting Lisbon
COUNTRY	Portugal
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	21 (19.01.93)
PREVIOUS CLUB	Vitoria Setubal (on loan)
CAPS	2 (0 goals)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	October 2014, v France

Located amid a cork forest in the Lisbon municipality of Alcochete, Sporting's much-lauded academy is the place to go in Portugal for vintage young footballing talent. And the club appear to have developed another class act in the shape of midfield choreographer Joao Mario.

On his return this summer from a loan spell at Vitoria Setubal, he has been ripening rapidly in the Sporting first team and earned himself a first senior cap in a friendly against France in October.

Sporting, who have him under contract until 2018, see Mario as the answer to their midfield command-and-control prayers, and in order to dissuade potential buyers they will only let him go if an intoxicating release fee of €45million is placed on the table.

Worth his weight in gold as a deep-lying central midfielder or a classic number 10 further forward, the 21-year-old's strongest suit is the simplicity that he brings to the middle of the park. Tactically and spatially aware, he is quick to size up his options and comfortable on the ball, spreading the ball around with accuracy and imagination, and keeping everything ticking over.

While he might not boast the flamboyance and goal threat of his idol Zinedine Zidane, he certainly has what it takes as a controller of engine-room operations.

"I'm proud to see his talent recognised," says his elder brother, Wilson Eduardo, a forward who used to play for Sporting and is now on loan at Dinamo Zagreb. "He's physically strong, has a good touch and is great at varying the rhythm of a game, knowing when to accelerate and when to slow it down."

Responsibility and leadership come naturally to the Porto-born youngster. With Sporting since the age of nine, he is instinctively someone who calls the shots and has proved an outstanding captain for Sporting's youth and B side, as well as under-age national teams.

"Football is all about opportunities and taking advantage of the chances which present themselves," says former Sporting B coach Abel. "On this score, I've no worries about Joao Mario. He always seizes his."

Nick Bidwell

Joao Mario played 77 games for Portugal from under-15 to under-21 level

GABRIEL Barbosa

CLUB	Santos
COUNTRY	Brazil
POSITION	Forward
AGE	18 (30.08.96)

The main tactical response made by Brazil's national team to the World Cup debacle is the replacement of target-man centre-forward Fred with Diego Tardelli, a striker who offers much more mobility. At club level, Santos have made a similar switch involving one of the brightest hopes on the domestic scene, with coach Enderson Moreira dropping Leandro Damiao and building his strike force around the versatile talents of Gabriel.

Since his competitive debut in May 2013, Gabriel has mostly featured wide on the right, opening up space for his powerful and pacy dribbling skills. Naturally left footed, he likes to cut in towards goal, while his right foot is good enough to give him the option of going outside.

Increasingly showing the ability to operate all across the attacking line, including in a central role, he is filling out physically, appears comfortable in tight spaces and can lay off with his back to goal. Finding the back of the net has never been a problem – ever since he was a child he has carried the nickname "Gabi-gol".

It was half a dozen goals scored against Santos in a children's futsal match in 2005 that brought him to the club's attention. According to legend, he was spotted by Santos stalwart Zito, who was the midfield anchorman in Brazil's World Cup wins of 1958 and 1962.

Gabriel did not take much convincing to sign as his father is a Santos fanatic. But how much longer the 18-year-old remains in Brazil remains to be seen. Barcelona have first option on Gabriel as part of the deal that took Neymar across the Atlantic, although the youngster did recently extend his contract until 2019, with a buy-out clause of nearly £40million.

Like Neymar, he had a torrid time when representing his country at the Under-17 World Cup. Playing in the 2013 finals in the UAE, Brazil scored 19 goals but Gabriel contributed just one. And when the quarter-final against Mexico went to penalties he missed the chance to seal Brazil's place in the last four when his kick was saved and Mexico went on to win.

Such setbacks, of course, are all part of the learning curve.

"Gabriel is blessed," says former Brazil starlet Robinho, who is now back playing at Santos. "He's a great player. He has so much ability, and a gift for scoring goals."

Tim Vickery

Patrick EKENG

CLUB	Cordoba (Spa)
COUNTRY	Cameroon
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	24 (26.03.90)
PREVIOUS CLUBS	Canon Yaounde, Le Mans (Fra), Rodez (Fra, on loan), Lausanne-Sport (Swi)

Swapping the shores of Lake Geneva for Andalusia has worked wonders for midfield all-rounder Patrick Ekeng, who just three months after joining the promoted La Liga outfit from Swiss side Lausanne earned his first call-up to the full Cameroon squad.

A key figure in his country's under-20 side that came second at the 2009 African championships, the Yaounde-born Ekeng then mysteriously fell out of favour with the decision-makers at the Cameroon football federation and must have wondered if he would ever reach the international promised land. But with the "Indomitable Lions" performing so abysmally at Brazil 2014, and coach Volker Finke forced to shuffle a fresh deck, the 24-year-old finally has his chance.

"I feel very much at ease in La Liga," says Ekeng. "It has extremely high technical and tactical standards, and it's fantastic to come up against so many world-class players and clubs which are European institutions.

"I've already learnt a great deal, and while I know it's only early days and I cannot let up, I'm very pleased to have made such a good start for Cordoba.

"Spanish football is totally different to what I used to experience in France and Switzerland. In Spain there is more rhythm and intensity to the game, and the players are quicker and more skilful. I've had to work hard on my concentration levels and tactical discipline."

> "This is the sort of league where you pay heavily for any error"
>
> Ekeng on life in La Liga

Despite starting out as a cultured playmaker at Canon Yaounde and occupying a similar role for Lausanne, these days Ekeng is more likely to be found in rampaging box-to-box mode.

Thanks to his physicality and explosive running, the youngster is a full-on protagonist from first minute to last. And, as he proved in a 1-1 draw at Getafe, he can finish too, firing home with a crisp cross shot after a typical hard-running break into the box.

His admiration for Ivory Coast and Manchester City star, Yaya Toure, clearly is having an effect. "Yaya is my idol," he says. "I often watch him in action and he never fails to inspire me. His all-round game, his vision are amazing."

Nick Bidwell

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6 of the best

Surprise Euro pace-setters

Nick Bidwell selects the main men for the form teams in the qualifying campaign

1 Borek DOCKAL

CZECH REPUBLIC

Three years after scoring two fine goals for his country in a European Under-21 Championship win against Ukraine, right-sided attacking midfielder Borek Dockal is busy making plans for another continental foray, this time with the senior side at Euro 2016.

Indeed, so keen is the Sparta Prague man to make those finals that he appears to have taken sole charge of the travel arrangements, not only scoring in each of the Czechs' first three games – a home win against Holland, plus victories in Turkey and Kazakhstan – but also constantly threatening with his excellent crossing and set-piece delivery. In addition, he possesses an ability to drift inside unnoticed and a willingness to shoot with either foot.

Acquired by Sparta last year following a two-season stint in Norway with Rosenborg, he was dubbed the "Czech Beckham" during his time in Scandinavia, and on returning to his homeland last year he displayed some of the ex-England captain's creative genius, racking up 19 assists in 25 league games – a domestic top-flight record.

2 Julian BAUMGARTLINGER

AUSTRIA

While most of the credit for Austria's improved performances of late seems to automatically go to the likes of Bayern ace David Alaba, maverick midfielder Marko Arnautovic and wily coach Marcel Koller, the work of Mainz defensive midfielder Julian Baumgartlinger rarely receives due attention.

Relentlessly active without crossing the line into headless-chicken territory, Baumgartlinger is a gladiatorial ball winner and a dynamic, steady passer. Although he might not be spectacular or aesthetically pleasing, he is a fine competitor with a good engine and is an important contributor to the team's high-pressing game.

"My central midfield pairing with David Alaba works well," says the 26-year-old, who has been a full international since 2009 and was skipper of the under-21 side. "I look after the defensive side and David does the attacking. We're a good team.

"I don't mind people concentrating on the amount of running I do [statisticians had him clocking up a lung-busting 13.2km during a recent Bundesliga encounter with Borussia Monchengladbach], but I do have other qualities."

3 Alexandru Chipciu

ROMANIA

Unbeaten in their first five matches and deservedly top of Group F, Romania are displaying more belief and spirit than they have done for years. And no one exemplifies the psychological sea change more than spiky and pugnacious Steaua Bucharest attacking midfielder Alexandru Chipciu.

The intensity and single-mindedness that the 25-year-old brings to every performance never fails to energise the men in yellow, and it is the mark of the man that he has come back even stronger after suffering a broken leg in 2013.

Normally used by national coach Anghel Iordanescu on the shoulder of the central striker, he can also put in a shift on the right wing or in a pure front-running role.

Chipciu can on occasion be guilty of confusing speed with haste, but on the whole is a considerable force for good, nimble on the ball, clever in his movement and always looking to steal a march on unsuspecting defenders.

Rumoured to be on the wanted list of several German and French clubs, he has been a full international since August 2011, winning his first cap as the star turn of Transylvanian club Brasov.

4 Robert MAK

SLOVAKIA

With their hopes of reaching France 2016 given a huge boost by a shock 2-1 victory over Spain in Zilina and a 1-0 smash-and-grab raid in Ukraine, the Slovaks have been playing with the heart and grit of dogs of war of late. But they are not all blunt instrument, with 23-year-old right-winger Robert Mak, in particular, displaying plenty of precision and quality.

Fast, skilful and never afraid to try his luck with a shot or volley, he is the ideal individual to lead the side's counter-attacking charge – as he proved when expertly turning his marker and bursting through to score the winner in Ukraine.

Once a pupil at the Manchester City academy, he was a member of the City side that won the FA Youth Cup in 2008 but was unable to break into the senior squad. He left the Etihad in 2010 for the Bundesliga and Nuremberg, where for the next four years his form was up and down, never quite managing to fully convince. He now plies his trade in Greece with PAOK.

5 Gylfi SIGURDSSON

ICELAND

Every team needs an inspirational leader and Iceland certainly possess such a figure in Swansea City's attacking midfielder Gylfi Siggurdsson.

On the evidence of his form for club and country this season, the 25-year-old is on the verge of recognition as genuine international class. On the scoresheet in each of the first three qualifiers – including two in the stunning 2-0 victory over Holland in Reykjavik - he is very much Iceland's trump card as they bid to reach their first major finals.

One of only three regular starters playing club football in major European leagues – Real Sociedad striker Alfred Finnbogason and Emil Hallfredsson of Verona are the others – the experience he has amassed at Hoffenheim, Tottenham Hotspur and Swansea marks Sigurdsson out as a cut above.

6 Lukasz SZUKALA

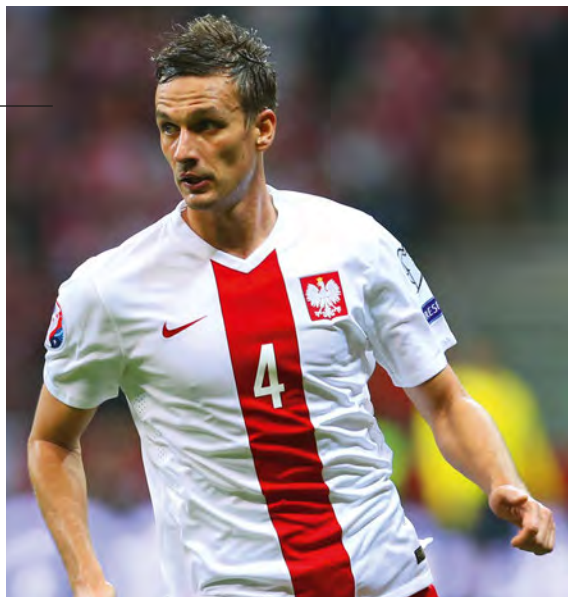
POLAND

Poland's recent 2-0 victory over Germany's world champions in Warsaw must have been particularly satisfying for 30-year-old Steaua Bucharest central defender Lukasz Szukala.

Born in the port of Gdansk but brought up in the Rhineland Palatinate region of western Germany, the giant stopper was tutored as a youngster at Eintracht Trier, before playing professionally in the second division for 1860 Munich and Alemannia Aachen.

Compared to Per Mertesacker during his early days, persistent knee trouble gradually chipped away at Szukala's reputation, and on being released by Aachen in 2010 he took the advice of an old team-mate and headed for Romania, where in the last couple of seasons everything he has touched has turned to gold, winning two league titles with Steaua Bucharest and making frequent Champions League starts.

While boarding at the Metz academy in France, he shared a room with future African star Emmanuel Adebayor and the pair remain in touch to this day.



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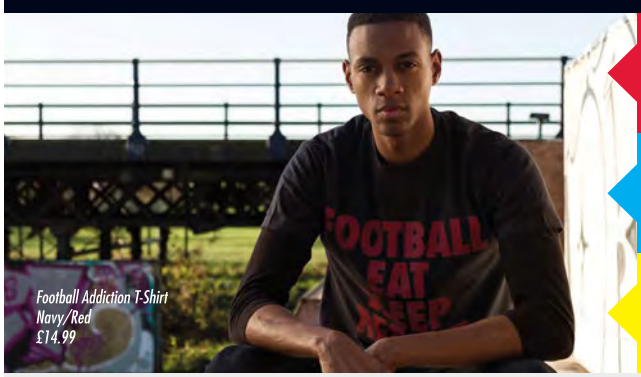

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World Service

BRAZIL

Shakhtar debutants

Shakhtar Donetsk trio Luiz Adriano, Douglas Costa and Fred all won their first caps in a 4-0 win in Turkey.

CHILE

2030 World Cup bid

Chilean football federation president Sergio Jadue says his country are keen to host the 2030 World Cup finals.

"We have spoken with all the main people, the president of CONMEBOL, the president of FIFA and members of the FIFA executive committee about the possibility of hosting it either alone or with Uruguay," says Jadue.

Chile, who staged the finals in 1962, are organising next year's Copa America and staging the Under-17 World Championship.

"If we succeed with the Copa and the under-17 tournament that will give us a solid base to bid when it becomes South America's turn once again to host the World Cup," added Jadue.

Uruguay is also interested in bidding for the 2030 finals, which will be the 100th anniversary of the inaugural edition – which was held in Uruguay.

Hat-trick hero...Efrem

CYPRUS

Joint-biggest victory

A 5-0 win against Andorra equalled the team's biggest international victory – achieved against the same opponents in 2000 – with APOEL winger George Efrem becoming the first player to score a hat-trick for the senior side.

Giorgos Merkis and Dimitris Christofi were also

Internationals

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS

Group A

Nov 16 - Plzen
Czech Republic 2 (Kaderabek 45+1, Halldorsson og 61)
Iceland 1 (R Sigurdsson 9)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 11,354. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Czech Republic: Cech - Kaderabek, Sivok, M Kadlec, Pudil, Dockal, Plasil, Darida, Krejci (Pilar 65), Rosicky (Prochazka 90+2), Lafata (Necid 82).
Iceland: Halldorsson - E Bjarnason (B Saevarsson 62), R Sigurdsson, Arnason, A Skulason, Hallfredsson (R Gislason 62), G Sigurdsson, A Gunnarsson, B Bjarnason (J Gudmundsson 77), Bodvarsson, Sigthorsson.

Nov 16 - Amsterdam
Holland 6 (Van Persie 6, Robben 35, 82, Huntelaar 42, 89, Bruma 78)
Latvia 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 47,500. **Ref:** Liany (Isr)
Holland: Cillessen - Van der Wiel, Bruma, De Vrij, Willems, Afellay (Depay 69), Blind (Clasie 20), Sneijder, Robben, Huntelaar, Van Persie (Wijnaldum 79).
Latvia: Kolinko - Gabovs, Dubra, Gorkss, Kurakins, Ikaunieks (Laizans 46), Zjuzins (Cauna 54), Fertovs, A Visnakovs, Sabala, E Visnakovs (Rudnevs 70).

Nov 16 - Istanbul
Turkey 3 (Burak pen 26, 29, Serdar 83)
Kazakhstan 1 (Smakov pen 87)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 27,547. **Ref:** Eskov (Rus)
Turkey: Volkan Babacan - Semih, Serdar, Selcuk Inan, Umut (Mehmet Topal 74), Arda, Ozan, Burak, Caner, Volkan Sen (Gokhan Tore 81), Sahan (Ekici 85).
Kazakhstan: Mokin - Gurman, Abdulin (Maliy 76), Konysbaev, Smakov, Islamkhan, Tagybergen, Shomko, Lunin (Schetkin 73), Khizhnichenko (Nurgaliyev 82), Logvinenko.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Rep	4	4	0	0	10	5	12
Iceland	4	3	0	1	9	2	9
Holland	4	2	0	2	10	5	6
Turkey	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Latvia	4	0	2	2	1	10	2
Kazakhstan	4	0	1	3	4	10	1

2014
Sep 9 Czech Republic v Holland 2-1
Iceland v Turkey 3-0
Kazakhstan v Latvia 0-0
Oct 10 Holland v Kazakhstan 3-1
Latvia v Iceland 0-3
Turkey v Czech Republic 1-2
Oct 13 Iceland v Holland 2-0
Kazakhstan v Czech Republic 2-4
Latvia v Turkey 1-1
Nov 16 Czech Republic v Iceland 2-1
Holland v Latvia 6-0
Turkey v Kazakhstan 3-1
2015
Mar 28 Czech Republic v Latvia
Holland v Turkey
Kazakhstan v Iceland
Jun 12 Iceland v Czech Republic
Kazakhstan v Turkey
Latvia v Holland
Sep 3 Czech Republic v Kazakhstan
Holland v Iceland
Turkey v Latvia
Sep 6 Iceland v Kazakhstan
Latvia v Czech Republic
Turkey v Holland
Oct 10 Czech Republic v Turkey
Iceland v Latvia
Kazakhstan v Holland
Oct 13 Holland v Czech Republic
Latvia v Kazakhstan
Turkey v Iceland

Group B

Nov 16 - Brussels
Belgium 0
Wales 0
Att: 55,000. **Ref:** Kralovec (CzR)
Belgium: Courtois - Vanden Borre, Alderweireld, Lombaerts, Vertonghen, Fellaini, Witsel, De Bruyne, Chadli (Benteke 62), Origi (Mertens 73; Januzaj 89), E Hazard.
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, Chester, A Williams, N Taylor, Allen, Ledley, Ramsey, Cotterill (G Williams 46), Robson-Kanu (Huws 90+5), Bale.

Nov 16 - Nicosia
Cyprus 5 (Merkis 9, Efrem 31, 42, 60, Christofi pen 87)
Andorra 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 6,078. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Cyprus: Giorgallides - Merkis, Angeli, Demetriou, Antoniades, Efrem (Laifis 78), Mytidis (Kolokoudias 63), Nikolaou, Laban, Christofi, Aloneftis (Makris 46).
Andorra: Pol - Rubio (Rodrigues 73), E Garcia, Lima (Rodriguez 49), M Garcia, C Martinez, M Vieira (Ayala 46), Pujol, Vales, Lorenzo, Riera.

Nov 16 - Haifa
Israel 3 (Vermouth 36, Damari 45, Zahavi 70)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Israel: Marciano - Meshumar, Tal Ben Haim/D, Tibi, Ben Harush (Davidzada 78), Vermouth (Refaelov 70), Natcho (Biton 74), Yeini, Zahavi, Tal Ben Haim/F, Damari.
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Begovic - Mujdza (Visca 46), Sunjic, Spahic, Hadzic, Kvrzic, Pjanic (Cimirot 61), Besic (Prcic 46), Medunjanin, Lulic, I Hajrovic.
Sent off: Sunjic 47.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Wales	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Cyprus	4	2	0	2	9	5	6
Belgium	3	1	2	0	7	1	5
Bosnia-Herz	4	0	2	2	2	6	2
Andorra	4	0	0	4	2	17	0

2014
Sep 9 Andorra v Wales 1-2
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Cyprus 1-2
Oct 10 Belgium v Andorra 6-0
Cyprus v Israel 1-2
Wales v Bosnia-Herzegovina 0-0
Oct 13 Andorra v Israel 1-4
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Belgium 1-1
Wales v Cyprus 2-1
Nov 16 Belgium v Wales 0-0
Cyprus v Andorra 5-0
Israel v Bosnia-Herzegovina 3-0
2015
Mar 28 Andorra v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Belgium v Cyprus
Israel v Wales
Mar 31 Israel v Belgium
Jun 12 Andorra v Cyprus
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Israel
Wales v Belgium
Sep 3 Belgium v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Cyprus v Wales
Israel v Andorra
Sep 6 Bosnia-Herzegovina v Andorra
Cyprus v Belgium
Wales v Israel
Oct 10 Andorra v Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Wales
Israel v Cyprus
Oct 13 Belgium v Israel
Cyprus v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Wales v Andorra

Group C

Nov 15 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Ukraine 3 (Yarmolenko 33, 53, 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,379. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Luxembourg: Joubert - Jans, Schnell, Chanot, Janisch, C Martins (Da Mota 53), Gerson, Mutsch, Holter, Bensi (Joachim 63), Turpel (M Deville 76).
Ukraine: Pyatov - Fedetskyi, Rakitskyi, Khacheridi, Shevchuk, Konoplyanka (Morozyuk 76), Sydorchuk, Tymoshchuk, Yarmolenko, Zozulya (Budkivskyi 72), Oliynyk (Kovalchuk 85).

Nov 15 - Skopje
Macedonia 0
Slovakia 2 (Kucha 25, Nemec 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Macedonia: Pacovski - Ristovski, Sikov, Mojsov, Alioski, Abdurahimi, Ademi, Demiri (Babunski 74), Trajkovski, K Velkoski (M Ivanovski 70), Stojkov (Kostovski 46).
Slovakia: Kozacik - Pekarik (Svento 46), Skrtel, Durica, Hubocan, Pecovsky, Kucka (Kiss 55), Weiss (Duris 78), Hamsik, Stoch, Nemec.

Nov 15 - Huelva
Spain 3 (Isco 18, Busquets 19, Pedro 55)
Belarus 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 19,249. **Ref:** Hansen (Den)
Spain: Casillas - Juanfran, Pique, Sergio Ramos, Jordi Alba, Cazorla (Callejon 69), Busquets (Bruno Soriano 46), Koke, Isco (Morata 80), Pedro, Paco Alcacer.
Belarus: Zhevnov - Matveychik, Politevich, Martynovich (Bordachev 31), Yanushkevich, Balanovich, Kalachev, Dragun, Krivets (Kislyak 80), Nekhaychik, Kornilenko (Signevich 67).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	4	4	0	0	8	2	12
Spain	4	3	0	1	13	3	9
Ukraine	4	3	0	1	6	1	9
Macedonia	4	1	0	3	4	10	3
Belarus	4	0	1	3	2	9	1
Luxembourg	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

2014
Sep 8 Luxembourg v Belarus 1-1
Spain v Macedonia 5-1
Ukraine v Slovakia 0-1
Oct 9 Belarus v Ukraine 0-2
Macedonia v Luxembourg 3-2
Slovakia v Spain 2-1
Oct 12 Belarus v Slovakia 1-3
Luxembourg v Spain 0-4
Ukraine v Macedonia 1-0
Nov 15 Luxembourg v Ukraine 0-3
Macedonia v Slovakia 0-2
Spain v Belarus 3-0
2015
Mar 27 Macedonia v Belarus
Slovakia v Luxembourg
Spain v Ukraine
Jun 14 Belarus v Spain
Slovakia v Macedonia
Ukraine v Luxembourg
Sep 5 Luxembourg v Macedonia
Spain v Slovakia
Ukraine v Belarus
Sep 8 Belarus v Luxembourg
Macedonia v Spain
Slovakia v Ukraine
Oct 9 Macedonia v Ukraine
Slovakia v Belarus
Spain v Luxembourg
Oct 12 Belarus v Macedonia
Luxembourg v Slovakia
Ukraine v Spain

Group D

Nov 14 - Tbilisi
Georgia 0
Poland 4 (Glik 51, Krychowiak 71, Mila 73, Milik 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Georgia: Loria - Lobzhanidze, Kverkvelia, Khubutia, Grigalava, Daushvili, Kashia, Ananidze (Okriashvili 59), Kankava, Kobakhidze (Dzalamidze 88), Mchedlidze (Chanturia 68).
Poland: Szczesny - Piszczek, Szukala, Glik, Jedrzejczyk, Krychowiak, Maczynski (Jodlowiec 66), Grosicki (Rybus 69), Milik, Mila (Linetty 86), R Lewandowski.

Nov 14 - Nuremberg
Germany 4 (T Muller 12, 29, Gotze 38, Santos og 67)
Gibraltar 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 44,380. **Ref:** Tudor (Rom)
Germany: Neuer - Mustafi, Boateng, Durm (Hector 72), Kroos (L Bender 79), Bellarabi, Khedira (Volland 60), Gotze, Podolski, T Muller, Kruse.
Gibraltar: Robba - Garcia, Artell, Wiseman, R Casciaro, J Chipolina, B Perez (Priestley 90+1), R Chipolina, Sergeant (Santos 58), Walker, L Casciaro (K Casciaro 71).

Nov 14 - Glasgow
Scotland 1 (Maloney 75)
Republic of Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 59,239. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
Scotland: Marshall - Whittaker, R Martin, Hanley, Robertson, Mulgrew, Brown, Maloney, Naismith, Anya (D Fletcher 88), S Fletcher (C Martin 56).
Rep Ireland: Forde - Coleman, R Keogh, O'Shea, Ward, McGeady, Hendrick (Keane 78), Gibson (Quinn 68), McClean, Walters, Long (Brady 68).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	3	1	0	15	2	10
Germany	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Scotland	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Rep Ireland	4	2	1	1	10	3	7
Georgia	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Gibraltar	4	0	0	4	0	21	0

on target for Cyprus, who won at home for the first time since beating Iceland 1-0 in 2012.

Georgios Kolokoudias and Kostas Laifis made their debuts for the hosts.

ENGLAND

Rooney's century

Wayne Rooney marked his 100th cap for his country with the equalising goal, scored from the penalty spot, as England came from behind to beat Slovenia 3-1 at Wembley – a game in which right-back Nathaniel Clyne made his international debut for the hosts.

Three days later, Rooney scored twice in a 3-1 win against Scotland at Celtic Park to take his total for England to 46 goals, leaving him just three short of Bobby Charlton's record.

Getting closer...Rooney

FAROE ISLANDS

Faroes's famous win

The 1-0 win away to Greece in the European qualifiers was hailed as the national team's "biggest win" by coach Lars Olsen.

"We achieved a victory against Austria [in a Euro 1992 qualifier], but I think Greece are a stronger football nation than Austria and this victory tonight is very important," said Olsen.

A second-half goal in Athens from Joan Edmundsson gave the Faroes their first competitive win since June 2011, when they beat Estonia at home, and moved them ahead of former European champions Greece at the bottom of Group F.

Edmundsson also hit a post in the first half with a free-kick.

2014

Sep 7	Georgia v Republic of Ireland	1-2
	Germany v Scotland	2-1
	Gibraltar v Poland	0-7
Oct 11	Poland v Germany	2-0
	Republic of Ireland v Gibraltar	7-0
	Scotland v Georgia	1-0
Oct 14	Germany v Republic of Ireland	1-1
	Gibraltar v Georgia	0-3
	Poland v Scotland	2-2
Nov 14	Georgia v Poland	0-4
	Germany v Gibraltar	4-0
	Scotland v Republic of Ireland	1-0

2015

Mar 29	Georgia v Germany
	Republic of Ireland v Poland
	Scotland v Gibraltar
Jun 13	Gibraltar v Germany
	Poland v Georgia
	Republic of Ireland v Scotland
Sep 4	Georgia v Scotland
	Germany v Poland
	Gibraltar v Republic of Ireland
Sep 7	Poland v Gibraltar
	Republic of Ireland v Georgia
	Scotland v Germany
Oct 8	Georgia v Gibraltar
	Republic of Ireland v Germany
	Scotland v Poland
Oct 11	Germany v Georgia
	Gibraltar v Scotland
	Poland v Republic of Ireland

Group E

Nov 15 - London
England 3 (Rooney pen 59, Welbeck 66, 72)
Slovenia 1 (Henderson og 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 82,305. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
England: Hart - Clyne, Jagielka (Smalling 89), Cahill, Gibbs, Henderson, Wilshere, Lallana (Milner 80), Sterling (Oxlade-Chamberlain 85), Rooney, Welbeck.
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko, Cesar, Ilic, Struna, Kirm (Ljubijankic 78), Birsa (Lazarevic 63), Kampl, Kurtic (Rotman 75), Mertelj, Novakovic.

Nov 15 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Estonia 0
Att: 759. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
San Marino: A Simoncini - Bonini, F Vitaioli, D Simoncini, Brolli, Palazzi, Hirsch (Battistini 60), Chiaruzzi, Tosi, M Vitaioli (Golinucci 77), Selva (Rinaldi 83).
Estonia: Aksalu - Teniste, Morozov, Artjunin (Teever 74), Kruglov, Antonov, Dmitrijev (Lindpere 46), Mets, Vassiljev, Ojamaa (Anier 62), Zenjov.

Nov 15 - St Gallen
Switzerland 4 (Arlauskis og 66, Schar 68, Shaqiri 80, 90)
Lithuania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,300. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
Switzerland: Sommer - Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Schar, Moubandje (Fernandes 75), Behrami, Inler, Dzemaili, Shaqiri, Seferovic (Schonbachler 83), Mehmedi (Drmic 63).
Lithuania: Arlauskis - Vaitkunas (Borovskij 64), Freidgeimas, Kijanskas, Andriuskevicius, Cernych, Vicius (Eliosius 82), Chvedukas, Zulpa, Novikovas (Kazlauskas 87), Matulevicius.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	4	0	0	11	1	12
Slovenia	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Switzerland	4	2	0	2	8	3	6
Lithuania	4	2	0	2	3	6	6
Estonia	4	1	1	2	1	2	4
San Marino	4	0	1	3	0	11	1

2014

Sep 8	Estonia v Slovenia	1-0
	San Marino v Lithuania	0-2
	Switzerland v England	0-2
Oct 9	England v San Marino	5-0
	Lithuania v Estonia	1-0
	Slovenia v Switzerland	1-0
Oct 12	Estonia v England	0-1
	Lithuania v Slovenia	0-2
Oct 14	San Marino v Switzerland	0-4
Nov 15	England v Slovenia	3-1
	San Marino v Estonia	0-0
	Switzerland v Lithuania	4-0

2015

Mar 27	England v Lithuania
	Slovenia v San Marino
	Switzerland v Estonia
Jun 14	Estonia v San Marino
	Lithuania v Switzerland
	Slovenia v England
Sep 5	Estonia v Lithuania
	San Marino v England
	Switzerland v Slovenia
Sep 8	England v Switzerland
	Lithuania v San Marino
	Slovenia v Estonia
Oct 9	England v Estonia
	Slovenia v Lithuania
	Switzerland v San Marino
Oct 12	Estonia v Switzerland
	Lithuania v England
	San Marino v Slovenia

Group F

Nov 14 - Piraeus
Greece 0
Faroe Islands 1 (Edmundsson 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,821. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Greece: Karnezis - Torosidis, Manolas, Moras, Karabelas (Mantalos 78), Maniatis, Kone, Samaris, Karelis (Mavrias 62), Gekas (Athanasiadis 46), Christodoulopoulos.
Faroe Islands: Nielsen - Naes, Gregersen, Nattestad, V Davidsen, Vatnhamar, B Olsen (K Olsen 88), Benjaminsen, Hansson, Holst (P Justinussen 76), Edmundsson (Faero 86).

Nov 14 - Budapest
Hungary 1 (Gera 84)
Finland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,500. **Ref:** Turpin (Fra)
Hungary: Kiraly - Fiola, Juhasz (Forro 57), Lang, Kadar, Elek, Tozser, K Simon (Lovrencsics 77), Gera, Dzsudzsak, Szalai (Nikolic 63).
Finland: Hradecky - Hurme, Toivio, Moisander, Uronen, Halsti (Markkanen 85), Sparv, P Hetemaj, Hamalainen (Riski 82), Pukki (Pohjanpalo 65), R Eremenko.

Nov 14 - Bucharest
Romania 2 (Papp 74, 79)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Papp, Chiriches, D Grigore, Rat, Pintilii, Sanmartean, Torje (Hoban 80), Chipciu, Tanase (Maxim 58), Stancu (Keseru 46).
Northern Ireland: Carroll - C McLaughlin, McAuley, A Hughes, McGivern, McGinn (Clingan 63), Norwood, Baird, C Evans (McKay 78), Brunt, K Lafferty.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	4	3	1	0	6	1	10
N Ireland	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Hungary	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Finland	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Faroe Islands	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Greece	4	0	1	3	1	5	1

2014

Sep 7	Faroe Islands v Finland	1-3
	Greece v Romania	0-1
	Hungary v Northern Ireland	1-2
Oct 11	Finland v Greece	1-1
	Northern Ireland v Faroe Islands	2-0
	Romania v Hungary	1-1
Oct 14	Faroe Islands v Hungary	0-1
	Finland v Romania	0-2
	Greece v Northern Ireland	0-2
Nov 14	Greece v Faroe Islands	0-1
	Hungary v Finland	1-0
	Romania v Northern Ireland	2-0

2015

Mar 29	Hungary v Greece
	Northern Ireland v Finland
	Romania v Faroe Islands
Jun 13	Faroe Islands v Greece
	Finland v Hungary
	Northern Ireland v Romania
Sep 4	Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland
	Greece v Finland
	Hungary v Romania
Sep 7	Finland v Faroe Islands
	Northern Ireland v Hungary
	Romania v Greece
Oct 8	Hungary v Faroe Islands
	Northern Ireland v Greece
	Romania v Finland
Oct 11	Faroe Islands v Romania
	Finland v Northern Ireland
	Greece v Hungary

Group G

Nov 15 - Vienna
Austria 1 (Okotie 73)
Russia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 47,500. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Austria: Almer - Klein, Dragovic (Prodl 86), Hinteregger, Fuchs, Harnik, Leitgeb, Ilsanker, Arnautovic (Sabitzer 90+1), Junuzovic, Janko (Okotie 59).
Russia: Akinfeev - Parshivlyuk, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Kombarov, Cheryshev (Ionov 56), Shirokov, Glushakov, Fayzulin (Dzyuba 75), Shatov (Dzagoev 81), Kokorin.

Nov 15 - Chisinau
Moldova 0
Liechtenstein 1 (Burgmeier 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,843. **Ref:** Gestranius (Fin)
Moldova: Cebanu - Golovatenco, Epureanu, Armas, Racu, Gatcan, Cojocari (Spataru 56), Patras (Suvorov 75), Ionita, Ginsari, Dedov.
Liechtenstein: B Buchel - Quintans (N Kieber 90), Kaufmann, Wieser, Burgmeier, A Christen, M Buchel (Gubser 88), N Hasler, Polverino, Brandle (Kuhne 63), Salanovic.

Nov 15 - Podgorica
Montenegro 1 (Jovetic pen 80)
Sweden 1 (Ibrahimovic 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Montenegro: M Bozovic - Savic, Basa, Tomasevic (Jankovic 77), Volkov, Jovovic, Zverotic, N Vukcevic, V Bozovic (Bakic 46), Jovetic, Damjanovic (Beciraj 67).
Sweden: Isaksson - Lustig (Wendt 46), Granqvist, Antonsson, P Bengtsson, Ekdal, Kallstrom, Durmaz, Forsberg (S Larsson 63), Ibrahimovic, Zengin (Thelin 86).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	4	3	1	0	5	2	10
Sweden	4	1	3	0	5	3	6
Russia	4	1	2	1	6	3	5
Montenegro	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Liechtenstein	4	1	1	2	1	6	4
Moldova	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

2014

Sep 8	Austria v Sweden	1-1
	Montenegro v Moldova	2-0
	Russia v Liechtenstein	4-0
Oct 9	Liechtenstein v Montenegro	0-0
	Moldova v Austria	1-2
	Sweden v Russia	1-1
Oct 12	Austria v Montenegro	1-0
	Russia v Moldova	1-1
	Sweden v Liechtenstein	2-0
Nov 15	Austria v Russia	1-0
	Moldova v Liechtenstein	0-1
	Montenegro v Sweden	1-1

2015

Mar 27	Liechtenstein v Austria
	Moldova v Sweden
	Montenegro v Russia
Jun 14	Liechtenstein v Moldova
	Russia v Austria
	Sweden v Montenegro
Sep 5	Austria v Moldova
	Montenegro v Liechtenstein
	Russia v Sweden
Sep 8	Liechtenstein v Russia
	Moldova v Montenegro
	Sweden v Austria
Oct 9	Liechtenstein v Sweden
	Moldova v Russia
	Montenegro v Austria
Oct 12	Austria v Liechtenstein
	Russia v Montenegro
	Sweden v Moldova

Group H

Nov 16 - Baku
Azerbaijan 0
Norway 1 (Nordtveit 25)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Aranovskyi (Ukr)
Azerbaijan: S Agayev - Shukurov, Yunuszade, R F Sadygov, Medvedev, Amirguliyev, Imamverdiyev (Nazarov 69), Abishov (Qarayev 65), Abdullayev, Aliyev, Javadov.
Norway: Nyland - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Forren, Hogli, Johansen, Daehli (Samuelsen 57), Tettey, Skjelbred, T Elyounoussi (Gulbrandsen 90+1), Nielsen (Soderlund 72).

Nov 16 - Sofia
Bulgaria 1 (Galabinov 6)
Malta 1 (Failla pen 49)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,300. **Ref:** Strombergsson (Swe)
Bulgaria: V Stoyanov - Terziev, V Minev, Bodurov, Manolev, G Milanov (Mitsanski 58), G Iliev (Tonev 71), Galabinov (Marquinhos 58), Dyakov, M Aleksandrov, I Popov.
Malta: Hogg - Camilleri, Z Muscat, J Caruana, A Agius, Failla (Bezzina 81), Briffa, R Muscat, P Fenech, Schembri (R Fenech 78), J P Farrugia (T Vella 90+3).

World Service

Staying retired...Zokora

IRAQ

Junior Arab success

Iraq won the Arab Cup Under-17 title for the first time, beating Saudi Arabia 2-0 in the Final.

IVORY COAST

No return for Zokora

Didier Zokora turned down an invitation from national coach Herve Renard to come out of international retirement and play in Ivory Coast's final two African Nations Cup qualifiers, against Sierra Leone and Cameroon.

The 33-year-old midfielder, who plays his club football in Turkey with Akhisar Belediyespor and is the Ivorians' most-capped player with 121 appearances, explained: "I wore the shirt of my country with pride, but this page of my career is definitely closed."

JAMAICA

Caribbean champions

After a goalless 120 minutes at the Montego Bay Sports Complex, Rodolph Austin scored the winning spot-kick as the hosts, Jamaica, beat Trinidad & Tobago on penalties to win the Caribbean Cup for a sixth time. Both sides, along with semi-finalists Haiti and Cuba, will now compete in next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup, with Jamaica also gaining a place in the 2016 Centennial Copa America.

Staged in the United States from June 3-26 to celebrate the centenary of CONMEBOL, this will be the first Copa America to be staged outside South America.

Nov 16 - Milan
Italy 1 (Candreva 11)
Croatia 1 (Perisic 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 63,122. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Italy: Buffon - Darmian, Ranocchia, Chiellini, De Sciglio, Candreva, De Rossi, Marchisio, Pasqual (Soriano 28), Immobile (El Shaarawy 52), Zaza (Pelle 63).
Croatia: Subasic - Srna, Corluka, Vida, Pranjic, Perisic, Modric (Kovacic 28), Rakitic, Brozovic (Badelj 83), Olic (Kramaric 68), Mandzukic.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	4	3	1	0	10	1	10
Italy	4	3	1	0	6	2	10
Norway	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Bulgaria	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Malta	4	0	1	3	1	7	1
Azerbaijan	4	0	0	4	2	11	0

2014
Sep 9 Azerbaijan v Bulgaria 1-2
Croatia v Malta 2-0
Norway v Italy 0-2
Oct 10 Bulgaria v Croatia 0-1
Italy v Azerbaijan 2-1
Malta v Norway 0-3
Oct 13 Croatia v Azerbaijan 6-0
Malta v Italy 0-1
Norway v Bulgaria 2-1
Nov 16 Azerbaijan v Norway 0-1
Bulgaria v Malta 1-1
Italy v Croatia 1-1
2015
Mar 28 Azerbaijan v Malta
Bulgaria v Italy
Croatia v Norway
Jun 12 Croatia v Italy
Malta v Bulgaria
Norway v Azerbaijan
Sep 3 Azerbaijan v Croatia
Bulgaria v Norway
Italy v Malta
Sep 6 Italy v Bulgaria
Malta v Azerbaijan
Norway v Croatia
Oct 10 Azerbaijan v Italy
Croatia v Bulgaria
Norway v Malta
Oct 13 Bulgaria v Azerbaijan
Italy v Norway
Malta v Croatia

Group I
Nov 14 - Faro-Loule
Portugal 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo 72)
Armenia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,042. **Ref:** Sidiropoulos (Gre)
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Bosingwa, Pepe, Ricardo Carvalho, Raphael Guerreiro, Nani (William Carvalho 88), Joao Moutinho, Tiago, Cristiano Ronaldo, Helder Postiga (Eder 56), Danny (Quaresma 70).
Armenia: Berezovsky - Hovhannisyan, Haroyan, Arzumanyan, T Voskanyan, Hayrapetyan, Mkrtchyan (Pizzelli 84), Artur Yedigaryan (Sarkisov 77), Mkhitaryan, Movsisyan, Ghazaryan (Manucharyan 62).

Nov 14 - Belgrade
Serbia 1 (Z Tosic 4)
Denmark 3 (Bendtner 60, 85, Kjaer 62)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Played behind closed doors
Serbia: Stojkovic - Ivanovic, Bisevac, S Mitrovic, D Tosic, Z Tosic, Gudelj (A Mitrovic 66), Djuricic (Kuzmanovic 46), Matic, Tadic (L Markovic 71), Lazovic.
Denmark: Schmeichel - P Ankersen (Jacobsen 70), Kjaer, Bjelland, Boilesen, Vibe, Kahlenberg (Wurtz 88), Kvist, Eriksen, Krohn-Dehli, Bendtner (Y Poulsen 88).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Portugal	3	2	0	1	2	1	6
Albania[1]	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Serbia[1]	3	1	1	1	5	4	1
Armenia	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

[1]The abandoned Serbia v Albania game on Oct 14 was awarded as a 3-0 win to Serbia, but Serbia also had 3pts deducted. Decision subject to appeal

2014
Sep 7 Denmark v Armenia 2-1
Portugal v Albania 0-1
Oct 11 Albania v Denmark 1-1
Armenia v Serbia 1-1
Oct 14 Denmark v Portugal 0-1
Serbia v Albania (awarded) 3-0
Nov 14 Portugal v Armenia 1-0
Serbia v Denmark 1-3
2015
Mar 29 Albania v Armenia
Portugal v Serbia
Jun 13 Armenia v Portugal
Denmark v Serbia
Sep 4 Denmark v Albania
Serbia v Armenia
Sep 7 Albania v Portugal
Armenia v Denmark
Oct 8 Albania v Serbia
Portugal v Denmark
Oct 11 Armenia v Albania
Serbia v Portugal

● *Top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record[1] will qualify directly for the finals; the other 3rd-placed teams will be paired in 4 head-to-head, 2-leg ties, the winners of which will also qualify for the 24-team finals. Hosts France qualify automatically*
[1]Determined by results against the teams finishing 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th in the respective groups

2015 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

Group A
Nov 15 - Pointe-Noire
Congo 0
Nigeria 2 (I Uche pen 59, Samuel 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Grisha (Egy)
Nigeria: Enyeama - Ambrose, Oboabona, Egwuekwe, Oshaniwa, Onazi, Akpan (Aluko 53), Mikel, I Uche, Musa (Salami 86), Emenike (Samuel 71).

Nov 15 - Durban
South Africa 2 (Serero 38, Rantie 53)
Sudan 1 (S Ibrahim 77)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Benouza (Alg)
South Africa: Keet - Ngcongca, Mathoho, Coetzee, Khumalo, Furman, Jali, Manyisa, Serero (Letsholonyane 88), Rantie, Ndulula (Sekola 58).

Nov 19 - Uyo
Nigeria 2 (Aluko 68, 90+2)
South Africa 2 (Rantie 42, 50)
HT: 0-1
Nigeria: Enyeama - Ambrose, Omeruo (Samuel 75), Egwuekwe, Oshaniwa, Onazi, Lawal (Aluko 53), Mikel, I Uche, Musa, Emenike.
South Africa: Keet - Khumalo, Ngcongca, Mathoho, Mashamaite, Furman, Letsholonyane, Manyisa, Masango (Jali 71), Erasmus (Sekola 38), Rantie. *Sent off: Letsholonyane 72.*

Nov 19 - Khartoum
Sudan 0
Congo 1 (Nganga 63)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kirwa (Ken)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa (Q)	6	3	3	0	9	3	12
Congo (Q)	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
Nigeria	6	2	2	2	9	7	8
Sudan	6	1	0	5	3	11	3

Group B
Nov 15 - Blida
Algeria 3 (Feghouli 32, Mahrez 41, Brahimi 45+2)
Ethiopia 1 (Omod 22)
HT: 3-1. **Ref:** Lemghaifry (Mtn)
Algeria: Zemmamouche - Mandi, Halliche (Bougherra 70), Medjani, Ghoulam, Feghouli, Taider, Lacen, Mahrez (Soudani 82), Brahimi, Slimani (Bounedjah 77).

Nov 15 - Blantyre
Malawi 2 (Ng'ambi 64, Kanyenda 85)
Mali 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Munyemana (Rwa)

Nov 19 - Addis Ababa
Ethiopia 0
Malawi 0
Ref: Jiyed (Mor)

Nov 19 - Bamako
Mali 2 (S Keita pen 29, M Yatabare 52)
Algeria 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Lamptey (Gha)
Algeria: Doukha - Zeffane, Belkalem, Medjani, Ghoulam, Lacen, Cadamuro (Taider 46), Feghouli, Mesbah (Mahrez 57), Soudani (Brahimi 57), Slimani.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria (Q)	6	5	0	1	11	4	15
Mali (Q)	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Malawi	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	7	12	4

Group C
Nov 15 - Luanda
Angola 0
Gabon 0
Ref: Tessema (Eth)

Nov 15 - Maseru
Lesotho 0
Burkina Faso 1 (Pitroipa 3)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Nkurunziza (Bdi)

Nov 19 - Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso 1 (Pitroipa pen 45+3)
Angola 1 (Djalma Campos pen 27)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Essrayri (Tun)

Nov 19 - Libreville
Gabon 4 (Madinda 40, Evouna 51, 80, Ntobo og 67)
Lesotho 2 (Seturumane 55, 74)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Batte (Uga)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gabon (Q)	6	3	3	0	9	4	12
Burkina F (Q)	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Angola	6	1	3	2	5	5	6
Lesotho	6	0	2	4	3	12	2

Group D
Nov 14 - Abidjan, Ivory Coast[1]
Sierra Leone 1 (Mustapha Bangura 25)
Ivory Coast 5 (K Toure 7, Kalou 49, 74, Gradel 53, Gervinho 60)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Coulibaly (Mli)
Ivory Coast: Gbohouo - K Toure, Viera, Aurier, Tiene, Die (Diomande 76), Gradel (Cyriac 60), Y Toure, Gervinho, L Traore, Kalou (Tallo 82).
[1]The game, moved to Ivory Coast because of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, is treated as a Sierra Leone home fixture

Nov 15 - Yaounde
Cameroon 1 (Aboubakar 71)
DR Congo 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bondo (Bot)
Cameroon: Ondoa - Oyongo, Bedimo, N'Koulou, Mbia, Salli, Enoh, Mandjeck, N'Jie (Moukandjo 86), Choupo-Moting (Aboubakar 64), Kweuke (Etoundi 75).

Nov 19 - Kinshasa
DR Congo 3 (Bolasie 40, Mongongu pen 63, Bokila 90+2)
Sierra Leone 1 (M Kamara 35)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Wiish (Som)
Sent off: Simbo (Sierra Leone) 62

Nov 19 - Abidjan
Ivory Coast 0
Cameroon 0
Ref: El Ahrach (Mor)
Ivory Coast: Gbohouo - Aurier, K Toure, Viera, Tiene, Die, Diomande, Y Toure, Gervinho, L Traore (Bony 46), Kalou.
Cameroon: Ondoa - Oyongo, N'Koulou (Guihoata 46), Bedimo, Loe, Salli, Mbia, Mandjeck (Kom 33), N'Jie (Etoundi 71), Aboubakar, Kweuke.
Sent off: Mbia 56.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon (Q)	6	4	2	0	9	1	14
Ivory Coast (Q)	6	3	1	2	13	11	10
DR Congo (Q)	6	3	0	3	10	9	9
Sierra Leone	6	0	1	5	3	14	1

Group E
Nov 15 - Lome
Togo 1 (Adebayor pen 69)
Guinea 4 (Idrissa Sylla 25, S Soumah 40, 59, 65)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Jedidi (Tun)

Nov 15 - Kampala
Uganda 1 (Kabugo 10)
Ghana 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mohamed Hussein (Sud)
Ghana: Brimah - Afful, Boye, Jonathan Mensah, Rahman, Afriyie Acquah (Asante 62), Rabiu, Agyemang-Badu, Atsu (Accam 67), A Ayew (Wakaso 75), Waris.

Nov 19 - Tamale
Ghana 3 (Waris 23, Wakaso 26, Agyemang-Badu 69)
Togo 1 (J Ayite 47)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Gassama (Gam)
Ghana: Brimah - Afful, Rahman, Boye, Jonathan Mensah, Rabiu, Agyemang-Badu (Gyimah 72), Asante (Atsu 76), Waris, J Ayew, Wakaso (Schlupp 88).

Nov 19 - Casablanca, Morocco
Guinea 2 (Traore 23, Soumah pen 60)
Uganda 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Diedhiou (Sen)
Sent off: Mwesigwa (Uganda) 59

JAPAN

Back-to-back wins

Javier Aguirre recorded back-to-back wins for the first time since taking over as coach after the World Cup, with victories over Honduras and Australia.

"It's a building process," said the Mexican. "We wanted to win both these games and we've done that.

"Australia are the Asian Cup hosts so it will not be an easy tournament for us to win."

LIECHTENSTEIN

Joy away from home

A second-half goal by captain Franz Burgmeier gave Liechtenstein a 1-0 victory away to Moldova.

It was the principality's first competitive victory since June 2011 and their first away from home in a qualifier in over a decade.

Double...Vela

MEXICO

Vela back with a bang

After more than three years in the international wilderness, Carlos Vela marked his return to the national side with two goals in a 3-2 friendly victory over Holland in Amsterdam.

The Real Sociedad striker took just eight minutes to get on the score sheet and then struck again just after the hour mark following a pass from sub Tecatito Corona, a winger with Dutch side Twente who was winning his first cap.

El Tri's other goal was scored by Javier Hernandez, who joins Cuauhtemoc Blanco in joint-second place on the country's all-time scoring list with 39.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP E – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana (Q)	6	3	2	1	11	7	11
Guinea (Q)	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Uganda	6	2	1	3	4	5	7
Togo	6	2	0	4	7	12	6

Group F

Nov 15 - Praia
Cape Verde Islands 3 (Kuca 68, Heldon 90, Julio Tavares 90+2)
Niger 1 (Fernando Varela og 73)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Dembele (IvC)

Nov 15 - Maputo
Mozambique 0
Zambia 1 (Singuluma 67)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Otogo-Castane (Gab)

Nov 19 - Niamey
Niger 1 (Ali 83)
Mozambique 1 (Diogo 68)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)

Nov 19 - Ndola
Zambia 1 (Kampamba 77)
Cape Verde Islands 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP F – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cape Verde (Q)	6	4	0	2	9	6	12
Zambia (Q)	6	3	2	1	6	2	11
Mozambique	6	1	3	2	4	4	6
Niger	6	0	3	3	4	11	3

Group G

Nov 14 - Gaborone
Botswana 0
Tunisia 0
Ref: Zio (BuF)
Tunisia: A Mathlouthi - H Mathlouthi, Maaloul, Abdennour, S Ben Youssef, Ragued, Nater, Saihi (Sassi 63), Chikhaoui, F Ben Youssef (Younes 79), Chermiti (Ben Yahia 88).

Nov 15 - Cairo
Egypt 0
Senegal 1 (M B Diouf 8)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Alioum (Cam)
Egypt: El Shenawy (Sobhy 11) - Fathy, Naguib, Gabr, Rahil, I Salah (Emam 64), El Neny (El Sayed 56), Trezeguet, Soliman, M Salah, Moteab.
Senegal: Coundoul - Badji, Djilobodji, Mbodj, M'Bengue, Kouyate, S Sane, Gueye, Diop (A N'Diaye 73), S Mane, M B Diouf (Sakho 78).

Nov 19 - Dakar
Senegal 3 (Mbodj 20, P D Cisse 26, Sow 72)
Botswana 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Abid Charef (Alg)
Senegal: Coundoul - Toure, Mbodj, Souare, Djilabodji, A N'Diaye, Gueye, Diop, D N'Doye, P D Cisse, Sow.

Nov 19 - Monastir
Tunisia 2 (Chikhaoui 53, Khazri 81)
Egypt 1 (M Salah 15)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Doue (IvC)
Tunisia: A Mathlouthi - H Mathlouthi, S Ben Youssef (Yahia 84), Abdennour, Maaloul, Sassi, Ragued (Nater 46), Khazri, Chikhaoui, F Ben Youssef, Younes (Chermiti 78).
Egypt: El Hadary - Elmohamady, Gabr, Naguib, Rahil, El Neny, Ghaly (Zakaria 64), Fathy, M Salah, Kamar (Moteab 78), Soliman (Hamoudi 64).

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP G – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia (Q)	6	4	2	0	6	2	14
Senegal (Q)	6	4	1	1	8	1	13
Egypt	6	2	0	4	5	6	6
Botswana	6	0	1	5	1	11	1

● *The top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record (DR Congo) have qualified for the 16-team finals; hosts Equatorial Guinea qualified automatically*

CARIBBEAN CUP FINALS

Played in Montego Bay, Jamaica

Group A

Nov 11
Curacao 2 (Meulens 18, Maria 48)
Trinidad & Tobago 3 (K Jones pen 26, 38, Molino 53)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Taylor (Bar)

Nov 11
Cuba 1 (A Martinez 57)
French Guiana 1 (Solvi 90+3)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)

Nov 13
Trinidad & Tobago 4 (Molino 17, 58, Peltier pen 62, Guerra 90+2)
French Guiana 2 (St Clair 64, Legrand 84)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vasquez (DoR)
Sent off: Torvic (French Guiana) 61

Nov 13
Curacao 2 (Rajcomar 45, Nepomuceno 69)
Cuba 3 (Corrales 15, Lopez 51, Leiva 90+3)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Da Costa (Bhm)

Nov 15
French Guiana 4 (St Clair 18, Fabien 26, 64, Adipi 34)
Curacao 1 (Meulens 84)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Clarke (StL)

Nov 15
Cuba 0
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Ref: Taylor (Bar)

CARIBBEAN CUP FINALS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trin & Tob (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Cuba (Q)	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
French Guiana	3	1	1	1	7	6	4
Curacao	3	0	0	3	5	10	0

Group B

Nov 12
Haiti 2 (Alcenat 23, Belfort 36)
Antigua & Barbuda 2 (Weston 58, Byers 60)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Clarke (StL)

Nov 12
Jamaica 1 (Mattocks 13)
Martinique 1 (Arquin 29)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)

Nov 14
Martinique 0
Haiti 3 (W Guerrier 53, Belfort 63, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Moore (Guy)

Nov 14
Jamaica 3 (Lawrence 30, Mattocks 44, Austin 87)
Antigua & Barbuda 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Cerdas (CR)

Nov 16
Antigua & Barbuda 0
Martinique 2 (Buval 57, Goron 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)

Nov 16
Jamaica 2 (Dawkins 13, Mattocks 20)
Haiti 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)

CARIBBEAN CUP FINALS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jamaica (Q)	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Haiti (Q)	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Martinique	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Antigua & Barb	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

● *Groups winners qualified for Final, runners-up for 3rd-place match*

3rd-place match

Nov 18
Cuba 1 (A Martinez 89)
Haiti 2 (Jerome 56, W Guerrier 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)

Final

Nov 18
Trinidad & Tobago 0
Jamaica 0
Aet. Jamaica 4-3 on pens
Ref: Cerdas (CR)
Trinidad & Tobago: J-M Williams - Hoyte, David, Cyrus, J Jones, Boucaud (K George 105), Hyland, Peltier (Cato 68), Molino, Hector (Guerra 83), K Jones.
Jamaica: Blake - Gray, Powell, J Taylor, Lawrence, Watson, Austin, Richards (Grant 56), McAnuff, Dawkins (Phillips 72), Mattocks (Seaton 91).

● *As semi-finalists, Trinidad & Tobago, Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti all qualify for the 2015 CONCACAF Gold Cup; as the group stage 3rd-placed country with the best record, French Guiana go into a play-off (against Honduras) for entry to the Gold Cup*

2015 EAST ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

2nd round

Played in Taipei, Taiwan
Nov 13: North Korea 2 Hong Kong 1; Taiwan 1 Guam 2.
Nov 16: North Korea 5 Guam 1; Taiwan 0 Hong Kong 1.
Nov 19: Hong Kong 0 Guam 0; Taiwan 0 North Korea 0.

EAST ASIAN CUP QUALS – 2ND ROUND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea (Q)	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Hong Kong	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Guam	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Taiwan	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

● *As winners, North Korea have qualified for the 4-team 2015 East Asian Cup finals, to which China, Japan and South Korea qualified automatically*

FRIENDLIES

Friday, October 24
Oct 24 - Jessore
Bangladesh 1 (Emily 20)
Sri Lanka 1 (Roshan 26)
HT: 1-1

Saturday, October 25
Oct 25 - Lusaka
Zambia 1 (Kampamba 41)
Ivory Coast 1 (Ouattara 52)
HT: 1-0

Monday, October 27
Oct 27 - Rajshahi
Bangladesh 1 (Emily pen 3)
Sri Lanka 0
HT: 1-0

Friday, October 31
Oct 31 - Dubai, UAE
Kuwait 1
North Korea 0
HT: 1-0

Oct 31 - Doha, Qatar
Philippines 3 (Greatwich 49, P Younghusband pen 90+1, Hartmann 90+3)
Nepal 0
HT: 0-0

Sunday, November 2
Nov 2 - Riffa
Bahrain 2 (Al Husaini 10, Baba 67)
North Korea 2 (pen 58, 76)
HT: 1-0

Tuesday, November 4
Nov 4 - Abu Dhabi, UAE
Kuwait 1
Yemen 1
HT: 0-0

Thursday, November 6
Nov 6 - Doha
Qatar 3 (Ilyas 47, Khoukhi 49, Hassan 55)
North Korea 1 (Jang Song-hyok pen 76)
HT: 0-0

Nov 6 - Dammam
Saudi Arabia 2 (Hazazi 34, F Al Muwallad 58)
Palestine 0
HT: 1-0

Nov 6 - Dammam, Saudi Arabia
United Arab Emirates 3 (Khalil 42, 56, 66)
Lebanon 2 (Mansour 58, Sbleni 62)
HT: 1-0

Friday, November 7
Nov 7 - Riffa
Bahrain 2 (Abdullatif 67, Al Husaini 75)
Singapore 0
HT: 0-0

Nov 7 - Muscat
Oman 2 (Al Musalami 45, 71)
Yemen 0
HT: 1-0

Sunday, November 9
Nov 9 - Nakhon Ratchasima
Thailand 3 (Mongkol 30, Prakit 54, Kroekrit 74)
Philippines 0
HT: 1-0

World Service

PORTUGAL

Ronaldo's record

Christiano Ronaldo's winner in Portugal's 1-0 victory against Armenia was his 23rd in 37 European Championship games and made him the competition's highest scorer of all time, eclipsing the 22 goals of Denmark's Jon Dahl Tomasson and Hakan Sukur of Turkey.

Outstanding wages...Capello

RUSSIA

Capello not paid

National coach Fabio Capello has not been paid since June, with Sergei Stepashin of the Russian Football Union admitting: "I declare that money to pay salaries [to] Capello is not there.

"It's wrong, but when they signed the contract they should have thought through how it's going to be financed. Today we need to look for sources of funding."

The 68-year-old Italian – who took charge in July 2012, five months after resigning as England boss – agreed a contract extension in January to take him through to the 2018 World Cup, but is under pressure following a 1-0 loss to Austria in the Euro qualifiers.

SAN MARINO

Point made at last

The 0-0 draw with Estonia ended a run of 61 defeats and earned a first-ever point in a Euro qualifier.

SOUTH AFRICA

Tired player banned

May Mahlangu has been banned from receiving any future international call-up

Nov 9 - Kampala
Uganda 3 (Massa 45, Sentamu 47, Miya 56)
Ethiopia 0
HT: 1-0

Nov 9 - Hanoi
Vietnam 1 (Nguyen Van Quyet 89)
Palestine 3 (Abuhabib 56, Salhe 71, Eid 83)
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, November 12

Nov 12 - London
Argentina 2 (Ansaldi 49, Messi pen 57)
Croatia 1 (Sharbini 11)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Marriner (Eng)
Argentina: Romero - Zabaleta, Vergini, Fazio, Ansaldi (Silva 76), Banega (Pereyra 71), Mascherano, Perez, Messi, Aguero (Tevez 62), Di Maria (Lamela 76).
Croatia: Kalinic (Vargic 89) - Vrsaljko, Jedvaj, Leskovic (Mitrovic 84), Leovac, Antolic, Badelj, Milic (Tomecak 71), Kovacic (Halilovic 46), Sharbini (Jajalo 65), Cop (Rog 84).

Nov 12 - Brussels
Belgium 3 (Lombaerts 12, Origi 62, Lukaku 73)
Iceland 1 (Finnbogason 13)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Gautier (Fra)
Belgium: Courtois - Vanden Borre (Meunier 66), Alderweireld, Lombaerts, Vertonghen, Dembele (Origi 46), Witsel, Fellaini, Januzaj (Mertens 63), Benteke (Praet 76), E Hazard (Lukaku 46).
Iceland: Kristinsson (I Jonsson 46) - B Saevarsson, Jonasson, Magnusson, R Sigurdsson (Eyjolfsson 85), J Gudmundsson, Finnbogason, Danielsson (O Skulason 72), A Gunnarsson (B Bjarnason 46), R Gislason, Kjartansson (Bodvarsson 74).

Nov 12 - Amsterdam
Holland 2 (Sneijder 49, Blind 74)
Mexico 3 (Vela 8, 62, J Hernandez 69)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,500. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
Holland: Krul - Van Rhijn, Veltman, Vlaar (De Vrij 24), Willems, Afellay (Wijnaldum 67), Blind, Sneijder (Fer 81), Robben, Huntelaar, Depay (Promes 60).
Mexico: Ochoa - Aguilar, M Herrera (Corona 61), Alanis, Reyes, Aldrete, Vazquez (H Rodriguez 89), H Herrera (J Dos Santos 82), Guardado (Ponce 88), Vela (G Dos Santos 76), J Hernandez (R Jimenez 76).

Nov 12 - Shah Alam
Malaysia 0
Syria 3 (Sabag 4, Malki 47, Khrbin 65)
HT: 0-1
Sent off: Fadhli Shas (Malaysia) 81

Nov 12 - Oslo
Norway 0
Estonia 1 (Vassiljev 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,580. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)
Norway: Nyland - Elabdellaoui (Linnes 46), Nordtveit, Forren, Hogli (Flo 46), Skjelbred (Samuelsen 68), Konradsen, Johansen (Singh 75), Daehli (Odegaard 57), T Elyounoussi, Nielsen (Soderlund 46).
Estonia: Aksalu - Teniste (Jaager 46), Morozov, Artjunin, Kallaste (Kruglov 33), Mets, Antonov, Vassiljev (Lindpere 46), Dmitrijev, Ojamaa (Teever 81), Zenjov (Subbotin 46).

Nov 12 - Istanbul
Turkey 0
Brazil 4 (Neymar 20, 60, Semih og 24, Willian 44)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 49,000. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
Turkey: Volkan Demirel (Volkan Babacan 46) - Semih, Ismail, Bekir, Mehmet Topal (Camdal 78), Ozan, Hamit Altintop (Volkan Sen 46), Bilal (Selcuk Inan 46), Arda, Erdinc (Caner 46), Umut (Alper 85).
Brazil: Diego Alves - Danilo, Miranda, David Luiz, Filipe Luis, Luiz Gustavo (Fred Santos 85), Fernandinho (Casemiro 73), Willian (Douglas Costa 77), Oscar (Coutinho 73), Neymar, Luiz Adriano (Roberto Firmino 73).

Thursday, November 13

Nov 13 - Agadir
Morocco 6 (Amrabat 7, Hamdallah 28, 81, El Kaddouri 31, El Khaliqi 60, Chamakh 90)
Benin 1 (Gestede 45)
HT: 3-1
Morocco: Amsif - El Khaliqi, Benatia, Da Costa, Lazaar (Achenteh 83), El Ahmadi (El Adoua 85), Obbadi (Ait Ben Idir 76), Amrabat (Chamakh 20), Chahechouhe (Labyad 76), El Kaddouri (Assaidi 69), Hamdallah.

Nov 13 - Singapore
Singapore 2 (Baihakki 5, Khairul Amri 32)
Laos 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,377

Nov 13 - Montevideo
Uruguay 3 (Suarez 49, Gimenez 64, Cavani 67)
Costa Rica 3 (Saborio 41, B Ruiz 50, Venegas 90+1)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Delfino (Arg)
Costa Rica 7-6 on pens[1]
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, A Pereira, Arevalo, Lodeiro (G Pereira 68), Sanchez (Corujo 80), C Rodriguez (Ramirez 80), Cavani (J Rodriguez 70), Suarez.
Costa Rica: Navas - Gamboa, Gonzalez, Duarte, Diaz, Tejeda (Bustos Golobio 78), Borges, B Ruiz, Ramirez (Venegas 57), Campbell (George 84), Saborio.
[1]Penalty shoot-out held as the game was for the Copa Antel

Friday, November 14

Nov 14 - Talcahuano
Chile 5 (A Sanchez 17, Valdivia 45+1, Vargas 55, Millar 77, Hernandez 90+2)
Venezuela 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Arias (Par)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Lichnovsky, Mena, Diaz (Carmona 80), Vidal (Millar 75), Aranguiz, Valdivia (Hernandez 75), A Sanchez (Pinilla 85), Vargas (Orellana 75).
Venezuela: D Hernandez - A Gonzalez, Perozo, Vizcarrondo, Cichero, Acosta (Lucena 56), Jimenez (Signorelli 86), M Rondon, Arango (Otero 61), F Feltscher (Anor 56), Fedor (Aristeguieta 66).

Nov 14 - Nanchang
China 1 (Zheng Zhi 43)
New Zealand 1 (Wood 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,248. **Ref:** Lee Min-hu (SKo)
China: Wang Dalei - Ren Hang, Jiang Zhipeng, Zhang Linpeng, Feng Xiaoting, Zheng Zhi, Hao Junmin (Han Peng 84), Liu Jianye (Cai Huikang 68), Sun Ke (Wu Xi 77), Gao Lin (Yu Hai 68), Wu Lei (Mei Fang 90).
New Zealand: Gleeson - Roux, Boxall, Smith, Wynne, Tuiloma (Payne 59), McGlinchey (Stevens 90+1), Barbarouses (Boyd 78), Rojas (Brockie 78), Thomas (Keat 90+1), Wood.

Nov 14 - San Salvador
El Salvador 1 (Larin pen 39)
Panama 3 (Munoz 21, Godoy 25, Nurse 85)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Solis (CR)
El Salvador: H Hernandez - Romero, Molina (Garcia 81), Mendoza (Mayen 81), Torres (I Castro 64), Monterrosa (Santamaria 64), Punyed, Larin, Alvarez, J Alas (N Bonilla 55), R Burgos.
Panama: Calderon - L Henriquez, Cummings, R Torres, Machado, Cooper, Quintero, G Gomez, Godoy, Buitrago, Munoz (Nurse 60).

Nov 14 - Rennes
France 1 (Griezmann 73)
Albania 1 (Mavraj 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Zelinka (CzR)
France: Lloris - Jallet, Varane, Yanga-Mbiwa, Digne (Kurzawa 70), Sissoko (Schneiderlin 80), Cabaye (Griezmann 59), Pogba, Valbuena (Payet 85), Lacazette (Gignac 69), Benzema.
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Cana, Mavraj, Agolli, Lila (Vila 85), Abrashi (Ajeti 69), Memushaj, Kukeli (Bulku 90+2), Lenjani (Shala 76), Cikalleshi (Balaj 90+2).

Nov 14 - Toyota
Japan 6 (Yoshida 9, Honda 40, Endo 44, Inui 47, 74, Toyoda 69)
Honduras 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 42,126. **Ref:** Frankowski (Pol)
Japan: Kawashima (Nishikawa 81) - Uchida, Yoshida, Morishige, G Sakai, Hasebe (Taguchi 78), Endo (Shibasaki 70), Kagawa, Okazaki (Toyoda 65), Honda, Muto (Inui 46).
Honduras: Escober - Crisanto (Barahona 72), Bernardez, M Figueroa, Izaguirre, Delgado, Garrido (A Peralta 67), O Garcia (M Chavez 70), Rodriguez (Rojas 76), Quioto (M Martinez 55), Elis (Rochez 59).

Nov 14 - Amman
Jordan 0
South Korea 1 (Han Kyo-won 34)
HT: 0-1
South Korea: Jung Sung-ryong - Cha Du-ri (Kim Chang-soo 46), Hong Jeong-ho, Park Joo-ho (Yun Suk-young 46), Kim Young-gwon, Park Chu-young, Nam Tae-hee (Koo Ja-cheol 82), Han Kook-young, Kim Min-woo (Son Heung-min 71), Cho Young-cheol (Jang Hyun-soo 46), Han Kyo-won (Lee Chung-yong 65).

Nov 14 - Luque
Paraguay 2 (A Romero 70, D Gonzalez 90)
Peru 1 (Guerrero 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Ribeiro (Bra)
Paraguay: Villar - Moreira, Da Silva, Gomez, Alonso, Ayala (Rojas 46), V Caceres (C Ortiz 46), C Riveros (M Riveros 85), Sanabria (A Romero 46), Benitez (Ruiz 69), Santa Cruz (D Gonzalez 81).
Peru: Gallese - Advincula (Cuba 77), Ramos, Callens, Yotun, Ramirez (Velarde 46), Ascues (Atoche 67), Ballon, Hurtado (Reyna 46), Carrillo (Benavente 81), Guerrero (Vargas 88). *Sent off: Yotun 90.*

Nov 14 - Manila
Philippines 3 (Sato 13, Ott 39, P Younghusband 90+2)
Cambodia 0
HT: 2-0

Nov 14 - London
United States 1 (Altidore pen 10)
Colombia 2 (Bacca 60, Gutierrez 87)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,235. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
United States: Guzan - Yedlin (Green 86), Jones, Brooks, Garza (Beasley 70), Beckerman, Bedoya (Morales 67), Diskerud (Nguyen 78), F Johnson, Altidore, Rubin (Wood 67).
Colombia: Vargas - Franco, S Arias, Armero, Murillo, Sanchez, Aguilar (Cardona 74), Juan Cuadrado (J Quintero 89), Rodriguez, Bacca (Ramos 79), Gutierrez (Martinez 89).

Saturday, November 15

Nov 15 - Jakarta
Indonesia 0
Syria 2 (Khrbin 4, 85)
HT: 0-1

Sunday, November 16

Nov 16 - Lobamba
Swaziland 1 (P Dlamini 38)
Tanzania 1 (Ulimwengu 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 250

Nov 16 - Hanoi
Vietnam 3 (Mac Hong Quan 47, Nguyen Van Quyet pen 56, Ngo Hoang Thinh 81)
Malaysia 1 (Amri 22)
HT: 0-1
Sent off: Muslim Ahmad (Malaysia) 48

Monday, November 17

Nov 17 - Singapore
Singapore 4 (Khairul Amri 9, Faris 29, Shahril 33, Safuwan 37)
Cambodia 2 (Laburavy 27, 30)
HT: 4-2

Tuesday, November 18

Nov 18 - Vienna
Austria 1 (Dragovic pen 75)
Brazil 2 (David Luiz 64, Roberto Firmino 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 48,500. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Austria: Almer (Ozcan 46) - Klein, Dragovic, Hinteregger, Fuchs, Ilsanker, Kavlak, Harnik (Prodl 88), Junuzovic (Weimann 71), Arnautovic (Ulmer 76), Okotie (Sabitzer 54).
Brazil: Diego Alves - Danilo, Miranda (Thiago Silva 28), David Luiz, Filipe Luis, Luiz Gustavo, Fernandinho (Casemiro 82), Willian (Douglas Costa 62), Oscar (Fred Santos 76), Neymar (Marquinhos 90+2), Luiz Adriano (Roberto Firmino 62).

Nov 18 - Borisov
Belarus 3 (Kislyak 50, Signevich 56, Nekhaychik 81)
Mexico 2 (R Jimenez 48, 53)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Belarus: Chernik - Shitov, Politsevich, Yanushkevich, Volodko (Matveychik 76), Aleksievich, Gordeychuk (Krivets 90), Putsilo (Bordachev 85), Kislyak (Dragun 61), Signevich (Kalachev 57), Stasevich (Nekhaychik 79)
Mexico: Talavera - Aguilar, Dominguez (Reyes 88), H Rodriguez, Venegas, Ponce (Vela 69), J Dos Santos (J Hernandez 80), Corona (H Herrera 54), A Gonzalez (Guardado 65), G Dos Santos, R Jimenez.

Nov 18 - La Paz
Bolivia 3 (Raldes 41, Lizio 53, Arce 86)
Venezuela 2 (Angel 39, A Gonzalez 70)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chl)
Bolivia: Quinonez - Hurtado, Gutierrez, Raldes, Morales, Lizio (J Vaca 77), Chumacero (Miranda 46), Melean (Chavez 67), Arce, Saucedo (Vargas 84), Ramallo (Moreno 46).
Venezuela: D Hernandez - A Gonzalez (Carabali 88), Vizcarrondo, Angel, Cichero, Acosta (Otero 60), Lucena, Seijas, M Rondon (Renteria 85), Arango (Fedor 66), Martinez (Orozco 83).

after the 25-year-old missed a training camp because of fatigue.

The Gothenburg midfielder had claimed he was tired after playing in too many games of late and needed a rest.

"We will not tolerate an individual who does not take national call-ups seriously," said South Africa Football Association chief executive Dennis Mumble ahead of the African Nations Cup qualifiers against Sudan and Nigeria.

Not available...Mahlangu

SPAIN

Unbeaten run over

An unbeaten run of 34 home games, which lasted eight years, came to an end with Spain's 1-0 defeat by Germany in Vigo, thanks to Toni Kroos' 89th-minute goal for the visitors.

Abused by fans...Demirel

TURKEY

Keeper storms off

First-choice goalkeeper Volkan Demirel walked off the pitch and refused to play against Kazakhstan after being abused by his own country's supporters during the warm-up.

The game was staged at Galatasaray's Turk Telekom Arena. Volkan plays for arch-rivals Fenerbahce.

Nov 18 - Santiago
Chile 1 (A Sanchez 28)
Uruguay 2 (Rolan 45+1, A Gonzalez 80)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Vera (Ecu)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Jara, Mena (Millar 87), Diaz (Beausejour 87), Aranguiz, Orellana, Vidal, Vargas (Pinilla 69), A Sanchez.
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira (Corujo 62), Gimenez, Godin, A Pereira, Arevalo, Sanchez (G Pereira 46), Lodeiro (Ramirez 62), C Rodriguez (Hernandez 79), Rolan (J Rodriguez 83), Cavani (A Gonzalez 79).

Nov 18 - Xian
China 0
Honduras 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Iida (Jap)
China: Zeng Cheng - Zhang Linpeng, Mei Fang, Li Xuepeng (Liu Jianye 86), Jiang Zhipeng (Ren Hang 68), Zheng Zhi, Wu Xi (Han Peng 80), Cai Huikang, Yu Hai (Sun Ke 76), Zhang Chengdong (Hao Junmin 60), Wu Lei.
Honduras: Escober - Barahona, Bernardez, M Figueroa, Izaguirre (Portillo 46), M Martinez (M Chavez 72), A Peralta (Delgado 80), Garrido, Rodriguez (O Garcia 46), Rochez (Elis 82), Rojas (Quioto 74).

Nov 18 - Tallinn
Estonia 1 (Henri Anier 16)
Jordan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,360. **Ref:** Lardot (Blg)
Estonia: Pareiko - Jurgenson, Barengrub, Jaager, Kruglov, Liivak (Teever 64), Antonov (Mets 46), Mosnikov, Subbotin, Hunt (Alliku 64), Henri Anier (Hannes Anier 46).

Nov 18 - Marseille
France 1 (Varane 83)
Sweden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Gil Manzano (Spa)
France: Mandanda - Sagna, Varane, Mangala, Kurzawa (Digne 78), Pogba, Payet (Sissoko 61), Guilavogui (Gonalons 85), Valbuena (Lacazette 68), Gignac (Benzema 68), Griezmann.
Sweden: Isaksson - Krafth, Jansson, Granqvist, P Bengtsson (Wendt 46), S Larsson, Kallstrom (Ekdal 46), Kacaniklic (Forsberg 86), Bahoui (Durmaz 46), Thelin (Guidetti 67), Zengin (Hrgota 67).

Nov 18 - Chania
Greece 0
Serbia 2 (Petrovic 60, Gudelj 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Doyle (Rol)
Greece: Glykos - Torosidis (Bakakis 60), Manolas (Moras 73), A Papadopoulos, Vyntra, Samaris (Mantalos 79), Maniatis, Mavrias (Kolovos 71), Kone (Tziolis 64), Christodoulopoulos, Athanasiadis (Gekas 64).
Serbia: Stojkovic - Tomovic, Ivanovic, Maksimovic (S Mitrovic 88), D Tosic, Petrovic (Gudelj 82), Matic, Z Tosic (Rukavina 89), Jojic (Djuricic 66), L Markovic (Lazovic 66), A Mitrovic.

Nov 18 - Budapest
Hungary 1 (Nikolic 85)
Russia 2 (Ignashevich 49, Kerzhakov 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Hungary: Dibusz - Fiola (Poor 57), Juhasz, Kadar, Forro, Tozser, Kalmar (A Simon 46), I Kovacs (Nikolic 46), Lovrencsics (Stieber 46), Szalai (Priskin 46), Dzsudzsak (Gyurcso 66).
Russia: Lodygin - V Berezutsky (Ignashevich 46), Granat (Semenov 71), Schennikov, Makeev, Samedov, Shirokov (Kokorin 46), Glushakov (Ozdoev 76), Dzagoev, Dzyuba (Kerzhakov 64), Kanunnikov (Cheryshev 46).

Nov 18 - Tehran
Iran 1 (Azmoun 82)
South Korea 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Kovalenko (Uzb)
Iran: A Haghighi - Montazeri, J Hosseini, Hajsafi, Heydari (Ghafouri 64), Teymourian, Nekounam, Dejagah, Shojaei (Rafiei 61), Jahanbakhsh (Ebrahimi 75), Ghoochannejhad (Azmoun 61).
South Korea: Kim Jin-hyeon - Jang Hyun-soo, Kwak Tae-hwi, Yun Suk-young (Cha Du-ri 90+1), Kim Chang-soo, Lee Chung-yong, Koo Ja-cheol (Cho Young-cheol 84), Park Joo-ho, Son Heung-min, Ki Sung-yeung, Lee Keun-ho (Park Chu-young 73).

Nov 18 - Genoa
Italy 1 (Okaka 82)
Albania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Harkam (Aut)
Italy: Sirigu (Perin 72) - De Silvestri, Bonucci (Acerbi 82), Moretti, Antonelli, Cerci (Gabbiadini 77), Parolo, Aquilani, Bertolacci (Bonaventura 70), Giovinco (Okaka 65), Destro (Matri 65).
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj (Ajeti 74), Cana, Mavraj, Agolli, Lila (Rama 90), Abrashi (Shala 71), Kukeli (Roshi 66), Memushaj, Lenjani (Balaj 86), Cikalleshi (Salihi 78).

Nov 18 - Osaka
Japan 2 (Konno 61, Okazaki 68)
Australia 1 (Cahill 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 46,312. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)
Japan: Kawashima - Ota, Yoshida, Morishige, G Sakai, Hasebe, Endo (Konno 46), Kagawa, Okazaki (Toyoda 77), Honda, Muto (Inui 57).
Australia: Ryan - Franjic, Wilkinson, Sainsbury, Behich, Jedinak, McKay (Cahill 73), Luongo (Nichols 64), Troisi (Bresciano 64), Leckie, Kruse (Mooy 88).

Nov 18 - Agadir
Morocco 2 (Assaidi 63, Iajour pen 79)
Zimbabwe 1 (Bonne 18)
HT: 0-1
Morocco: Bounou - Da Costa, El Adoua, El Khaliqi (Achakir 86), Lazaar (Achenteh 85), El Ahmadi (Feddal 81), Ait Ben Ider, El Kaddouri (Labyad 75), Chahechouhe (Assaidi 46), Chamakh, Hamdallah (Iajour 55).

Nov 18 - Esteli
Nicaragua 0
El Salvador 2 (E Burgos 44, N Bonilla 80)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Davila (Nic)
Nicaragua: Lorente - Tapia (Membreno 46), Tellez, Casco, Quijano, Barrera, Peralta (Lopez 83), Copete, Pinel (Chavarria 58), Pavon (Reyes 60), Cadena (Cantillo 69).
El Salvador: Contreras - Castro, Molina, Mendoza, Larin, Santamaria (Mayen 71), Punyed (Romero 90+2), Monterrosa (J Alas 78), Alvarez (Torres 87), E Burgos (Ceren 61), N Bonilla (Valdez 82).

Nov 18 - Panama City
Panama 0
Canada 0
Ref: Penso (USA)
Panama: Calderon - Parris, Cummings, Rodriguez (L Henriquez 70), R Torres, G Gomez, G Torres (Cooper 58), Tejada (Nurse 75), Godoy, Buitrago (Machado 75), Escobar (Quintero 58).
Sent off: Godoy 74.
Canada: Borjan - Henry, Edgar, De Guzman (Ledgerwood 79), Ricketts, Nakajima-Farran (Osorio 60), Hutchinson (Bekker 83), De Rosario (Haber 78), Straith, Bernier (Teibert 60), Ouimette.

Nov 18 - Lima
Peru 2 (Ascues 72, 82)
Paraguay 1 (Santa Cruz 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Ramos, Callens, Santillan (Carrillo 46), Ramirez (Ascues 72), Ballon (Atoche 72), Velarde (Benavente 46; Araujo 87), Deza (Reyna 46), Vargas, Guerrero.
Sent off: Guerrero 66, Reyna 89.
Paraguay: Villar (Franco 77) - L Cardozo, Gomez (Rojas 46), Da Silva, Moreira, C Ortiz (M Riveros 46), Piris (D Gonzalez 83), C Riveros (V Caceres 46), A Romero (Ruiz 66), Benitez, Santa Cruz.
Sent off: D Gonzalez 89.

Nov 18 - Wroclaw
Poland 2 (Jedrzejczyk 45+1, Milik 61)
Switzerland 2 (Drmic 4, Frei 87)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,133. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Poland: Boruc (Fabianski 46) - Olkowski, Cionek, Glik, Jedrzejczyk (Broz 52), Krychowiak (Teodorczyk 68), Jodlowiec, Kucharczyk (Zyro 53), Zielinski (Milik 46), Rybus, R Lewandowski (Mila 63). *Sent off: Zyro 83.*
Switzerland: Burki - Lang, Schar, Von Bergen, Moubandje, Fernandes (Frei 62), Inler (Behrami 46), Kasami (Seferovic 68), Drmic (Schonbachler 77), Shaqiri, Stocker (Mehmedi 62).

Nov 18 - Manchester, England
Portugal 1 (Guerreiro 90+1)
Argentina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,233. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Portugal: Beto - Bruno Alves, Tiago Gomes (Guerreiro 52), Bosingwa, Pepe (Jose Fonte 46), Tiago (William Carvalho 78), Joao Moutinho, Andre Gomes (Adrien Silva 66), Nani, Cristiano Ronaldo (Quaresma 46), Danny (Eder 46).
Argentina: Guzman - Roncaglia, Demichelis, Otamendi, Ansaldi (Silva 73), Biglia, Mascherano, Pastore (Pereyra 73), Messi (Gaitan 46), Higuain (Tevez 61), Di Maria (Lamela 61).

Nov 18 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 4 (Pilkington 7, Brady 55, 86, McClean 82)
United States 1 (Diskerud 39)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 33,332. **Ref:** Raczkowski (Pol)
Rep Ireland: Given (Elliot 85) - Christie, Pearce, Clark, Brady, Pilkington (McClean 64), Quinn, Meyler, Stokes (McGeady 60), McGoldrick (Long 77), D Murphy (Hendrick 77).
United States: Hamid - F Johnson, Cameron, Besler, Chandler (Morris 76), Beckerman (Ream 87), Bedoya, Diskerud (Rubin 77), Morales (Garza 65), Wondolowski (Wood 46), Altidore.

Nov 18 - Bucharest
Romania 2 (Keseru 52, 57)
Denmark 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Vincic (Sln)
Romania: Pantilimon - Papp (Luchin 78), Chiriches (Moti 69), Gardos, Rat, Hoban, Prepelita (Pintilii 83), Sanmartean (Chipciu 46), Enache (Popa 46), Maxim (Bicfalvi 64), Keseru.
Denmark: S Andersen - Jacobsen, Kjaer (Vestergaard 46), Bjelland, Boilesen (S Poulsen 78), Christiansen (Bech 46), Kvist (Hansen 69), Thomsen, Vibe (Y Poulsen 72), Bendtner, L Andersen (Wurtz 26).

Nov 18 - Glasgow
Scotland 1 (Robertson 83)
England 3 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 32, Rooney 47, 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Scotland: Marshall (Gordon 46) - Whittaker, R Martin, Hanley (May 66), Robertson, Mulgrew, Brown (D Fletcher 46), Maloney (Russell 81), Naismith, Anya (Bannan 61), C Martin (Morrison 46).
England: Forster - Clyne, Cahill (Jagielka 46), Smalling, Shaw (Gibbs 66), Milner, Wilshere (Barkley 87), Downing (Lallana 46), Oxlade-Chamberlain (Lambert 80), Rooney, Welbeck (Sterling 66).

Nov 18 - Zilina
Slovakia 2 (Holosko 1, Hamsik 7)
Finland 1 (Hubocan og 45+1)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 3,998. **Ref:** Hameter (Aut)
Slovakia: Mucha - Hubocan, Skrtel, Durica, Svento, Pecovsky, Hrosovsky (Kiss 59), Sestak (Stoch 80), Hamsik (Duda 59), Mak (Weiss 25), Holosko (Duris 59).
Finland: Hradecky - Arkivuo (Lampi 86), Halsti, Moisander, Uronen, Kauko (Mattila 73), Sparv, P Hetemaj (Hamalainen 73), Riski, Pohjanpalo (Pukki 46), R Eremenko.

Nov 18 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 0
Colombia 1 (Ramos 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,230. **Ref:** Pappas (Gre)
Slovenia: Oblak - Janza (Stojanovic 46), Maroh (Andjelkovic 46), Samardzic, Milec (Struna 46), Cvijanovic (Kurtic 46), Filipovic, Lazarevic (Bohar 58), Pecnik, Rotman, Beric (Cavusevic 67).
Colombia: Vargas - Zapata, S Arias (Bocanegra 64), Armero, Aguilar (Carbonero 57), Rodriguez (Chara 73), Juan Cuadrado (Angulo 80), Ramos, Martinez (J Quintero 64), Murillo, Mejia (Sanchez 87).

Nov 18 - Vigo
Spain 0
Germany 1 (Kroos 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 26,900. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
Spain: Casillas (Casilla 77) - Azpilicueta, Pique (Albiol 46), Sergio Ramos (Bartra 46), Bernat, Busquets (Camacho 46), Bruno Soriano, Raul Garcia (Callejon 70), Isco, Nolito (Pedro 77), Morata.
Germany: Zieler - Rudiger, Mustafi, Howedes, Rudy, Durm, Khedira (L Bender 90+2), T Muller (Bellarabi 22), Kroos, Volland, Gotze (Kruse 84).

Nov 18 - Nakhon Ratchasima
Thailand 2 (Kirati 44, Adisak 77)
New Zealand 0
HT: 1-0
New Zealand: Gleeson - Roux (Keat 82), Boxall, Smith, Wynne (Boyd 73), Tuiloma (Vincent 66), McGlinchey, Barbarouses (Brockie 46), Rojas (Payne 30), Thomas, Wood.

Nov 18 - Kiev
Ukraine 0
Lithuania 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Agayev (Aze)
Ukraine: Boyko - Husiev, Vernydub (Kovalchuk 46), Ordets, Morozyuk (Fedetskyi 67), Oliynyk (Yarmolenko 46), Pilyavskyi, Bezus (Sydorchuk 78), Rotan (Tymoshchuk 78), Khomchenovskyi (Konoplyanka 46), Budkivskyi.
Lithuania: Cerniauskas - Vaitkunas, Freidgeimas, Kijanskas, Slavickas, Kazlauskas (Andriuskevicius 82), Kuklys (Cernych 58), Chvedukas, Zulpa, Novikovas (Kalonas 75), Matulevicius (S Stankevicius 66).

KEY TO TABLES
(Q) = qualified for next stage

ESM ELEVEN OCTOBER 2014

European Sports Media

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com/esm11

SEASON RANKINGS

Cumulative votes through the season

GOALKEEPERS

Gianluigi BUFFON (Juventus)	9 votes
Manuel NEUER (Bayern Munich)	6
Claudio BRAVO (Barcelona)	2
Thibaut COURTOIS (Chelsea)	2
David DE GEA (Manchester United)	2
ROBERTO (Olympiakos)	2
Steve MANDANDA (Marseille)	1

DEFENDERS

Pepe (Real Madrid)	8
Branislav IVANOVIC (Chelsea)	7
Giorgio CHIELLINI (Juventus)	6
Jeremy MATHIEU (Barcelona)	6
MIRANDA (Atletico Madrid)	5
David ALABA (Bayern Munich)	4
Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Juventus)	4
Nicolas N'KOULOU (Marseille)	4
Ricardo RODRIGUEZ (Wolfsburg)	4
Jordi ALBA (Barcelona)	3
Nathaniel CLYNE (Southampton)	3
David LUIZ (Paris Saint-Germain)	3
Kostas MANOLAS (Roma)	3
John TERRY (Chelsea)	3
Leighton BAINES (Everton)	2
Jerome BOATENG (Bayern Munich)	2
Leonardo BONUCCI (Juventus)	2
Ashley COLE (Roma)	2
Jose FONTE (Southampton)	2
Diego GODIN (Atletico Madrid)	2
JUANFRAN (Atletico Madrid)	2
MARCELO (Real Madrid)	2
Javier MASCHERANO (Barcelona)	2
MAXWELL (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
NALDO (Wolfsburg)	2
Davide ASTORI (Roma)	1
Alex BRUCE (Hull City)	1
CAICARA (Ludogorets)	1
CARLAO (APOEL)	1
Jose Luis GAYA (Valencia)	1
Benedikt HOWEDES (Schalke)	1
Tin JEDVAJ (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Aleksandar KOLAROV (Manchester City)	1
Filipe LUIS (Chelsea)	1
MAICON (Roma)	1
MARQUINHOS (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Alberto MORENO (Liverpool)	1
Nicolas OTAMENDI (Valencia)	1
Dani PAREJO (Valencia)	1
RAFINHA (Bayern Munich)	1
Sergio RAMOS (Real Madrid)	1
Winston REID (West Ham United)	1
Martin STRANZL (Borussia Monchengladbach)	1
Gregory VAN DER WIEL (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Raphael VARANE (Real Madrid)	1
WENDELL (Bayer Leverkusen)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Cesc FABREGAS (Chelsea)	12
Xabi ALONSO (Bayern Munich)	8
Mario GOTZE (Bayern Munich)	8
Arjen ROBBEN (Bayern Munich)	8
Philipp LAHM (Bayern Munich)	7
Toni KROOS (Real Madrid)	5
Angel DI MARIA (Manchester United)	3
ISCO (Real Madrid)	3
Miralem PJANIC (Roma)	3
Jose Maria CALLEJON (Napoli)	2
Eden HAZARD (Chelsea)	2
Giannelli IMBULA (Marseille)	2
KOKE (Atletico Madrid)	2
Thomas MULLER (Bayern Munich)	2
Radja NAINGGOLAN (Roma)	2
NANI (Sporting Lisbon)	2
James RODRIGUEZ (Real Madrid)	2
ARDA Turan (Atletico Madrid)	1
Gareth BALE (Real Madrid)	1
Karim BELLARABI (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Juan BERNAT (Bayern Munich)	1
Kevin DE BRUYNE (Wolfsburg)	1
Yoann GOURCUFF (Lyon)	1
Frank LAMPARD (Manchester City)	1
Paul POGBA (Juventus)	1
Ivan RAKITIC (Barcelona)	1
David SILVA (Manchester City)	1
Wesley SNEIJDER (Galatasaray)	1
TALISCA (Benfica)	1
Yaya TOURE (Manchester City)	1
Granit XHAKA (Borussia Monchengladbach)	1

FORWARDS

Cristiano RONALDO (Real Madrid)	25
Diego COSTA (Chelsea)	14
Sergio AGUERO (Manchester City)	8
NEYMAR (Barcelona)	6
Karim BENZEMA (Real Madrid)	5
Graziano PELLE (Southampton)	5
Carlos TEVEZ (Juventus)	5
Lionel MESSI (Barcelona)	3
Luiz ADRIANO (Shakhtar Dontesk)	2
Andre-Pierre GIGNAC (Marseille)	2
Diafra SAKHO (West Ham United)	2
Francesco TOTTI (Roma)	2
Paco ALCACER (Valencia)	1
Mauro ICARDI (Internazionale)	1
Alexis SANCHEZ (Arsenal)	1
Danny WELBECK (Arsenal)	1

ESM – EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

The members of ESM are: *A Bola* (Portugal), *Elf* (Holland), *Fanatik* (Turkey), *Frankfurter Allegmeine Zeitung* (Germany), *Goal News* (Greece), *Kicker* (Germany), *Marca* (Spain), *Nemzeti Sport* (Hungary), *So Foot* (France), *Sport* (Belgium), *Sport Express* (Russia), *De Telegraaf* (Holland), *TIPSbladet* (Denmark), *World Soccer* (England) More details of votes at worldsoccer.com/votes

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: PREMIER DIVISION

Dundalk crowned champions once again

Dramatic finale...Dundalk won their first League of Ireland title since 1995 with a thrilling showdown in front of their own fans against championship challengers Cork City

Photo: Inpho

Dundalk won their first league title for 19 years, winning 2-0 at home to Cork City on the last day of the season to leapfrog the visitors at the top of the table and win the championship for a 10th time.

With Cork beating Bohemians and Dundalk only drawing away to Bray Wanderers in the penultimate round of games, a draw at Oriel Park would have been enough for Cork to claim the title. However, Dundalk – who had led the table since early May – took all three points with goals from Stephen O'Donnell and Brian Gartland.

O'Donnell, who scored the penalty for Shamrock Rovers against Partizan Belgrade a few years back that took his former club through to the group stage of the Europa League, had been out for most of the season and was making his first start in six months after a knee injury. But manager Stephen Kenny kept faith in his captain, who repaid that trust by scoring the opener against Cork.

Dundalk's triumph was a personal success story for the 43-year-old Kenny, who was sacked by Shamrock in September 2012 after only nine months in charge. Prior to his brief stay at Rovers, the Dubliner had a great record as a manager, winning the league with Bohemians in 2003, the FAI Cup once and the League Cup four times in two spells with Derry City. He also took Dunfermline to the Scottish Cup Final in 2007 and qualified Longford Town for the UEFA Cup in 2001, thanks to an FAI Cup Final appearance.

One of Ireland's most successful clubs in the 1970s and 1980s, Dundalk have endured some hard times of late, including a lengthy spell in the second tier and a brush with relegation in 2012. "The club lost a decade of support during their time in the first division," says Kenny. "I put together a squad of what could be described as lesser-known players, but players who were hungry to succeed.

"Dundalk were the first provincial club to win the League of Ireland, in 1933, and they are still the most successful club outside of Dublin. This season we also won the EA Sports League Cup and won three games in the Europa League.

"The club owners will not make the same mistake as other clubs have done by bankrupting the club, but I hope to strengthen the squad for next season with some more bargain signings."

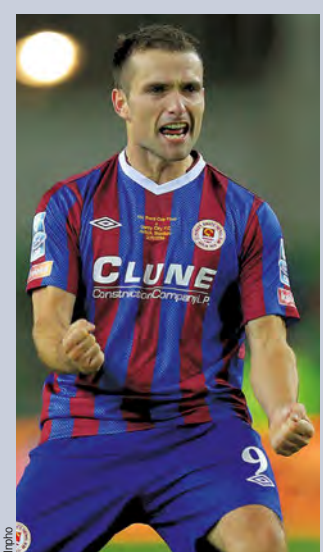
While St Patrick's Athletic were disappointing in their attempts to retain the title they won last year, they did beat Derry City 2-0 to win the FAI Cup for the first time since 1961. Having finished third in the league, the Saints were already guaranteed a place in the Europa League next season, but it will be Shamrock, who finished fourth in the league, who were handed the final Europa League spot.

It was a disappointing year for Sligo Rovers fans, who had seen their team claim silverware in each of the past four seasons. Ian Barraclough left the club in June and was replaced by John Coleman, but he quit after two months to return to Accrington Stanley. After steering Bohemians clear of the relegation zone, Owen Heary took charge of Sligo in October.

First Division champions Longford Town return to the top flight after a seven-year absence, replacing Athlone Town, who go straight back down. Galway are also promoted, after beating Shelbourne in the First Division play-off and UCD in a promotion/relegation play-off.

Sean Creedon

• *For full league table, see page 99*



Former Red Devil...top scorer Fagan

Photo: Inpho

COACH OF THE SEASON
Stephen Kenny (Dundalk)
One of the brightest young managers of late, despite not playing much League of Ireland football. Was 27 when appointed Longford Town boss in 1998 and now 43, he has won the league with Bohemians and Dundalk.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Christy Fagan (St Patrick's Athletic)
Joint-top scorer in the league with 20 goals, the last two in his overall total of 27 helped Pat's win the FAI Cup. The Dubliner was on the books of Manchester United as a youngster.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Mark O'Sullivan (Cork City)
A latecomer to the league at 31, he was a builder playing part-time for Munster Senior League side Avondale United before following his former manager John Caulfield to Cork.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: FINAL

Algeria's ES Setif win on away goals

Algerian football had its glory years in the 1980s with a victory over West Germany at the World Cup in Spain, qualifying for Mexico four years later and winning the African Nations Cup at the end of the decade.

Then came civil conflict and years in the doldrums. But the good times look to be back for the north African nation, which is rich in potential but so often prone to self-implosion.

Victory for ES Setif in the African Champions League was the first club success for Algeria in continental competition in more than a decade and follows on from the national team's performance at the World Cup in Brazil, where they emerged from the group stage to take eventual winners Germany to extra-time in their last-16 encounter before being eliminated.

For Setif, it was a far from convincing triumph in the continent's premier club competition; rather a success that was patiently ground out. Of the 10 matches they played from the group stage through to the Final, they won only three. Six were drawn but they lost only once.

It was a personal triumph for coach Kheireddine Madoui, a former Setif and Algeria midfielder who had taken the reins only four months previously and at 41 became the youngest man to have steered a side to the African Champions League crown.

But it was a tournament on which they nearly missed out as Madoui revealed Setif had come close to withdrawing at the start of the year.

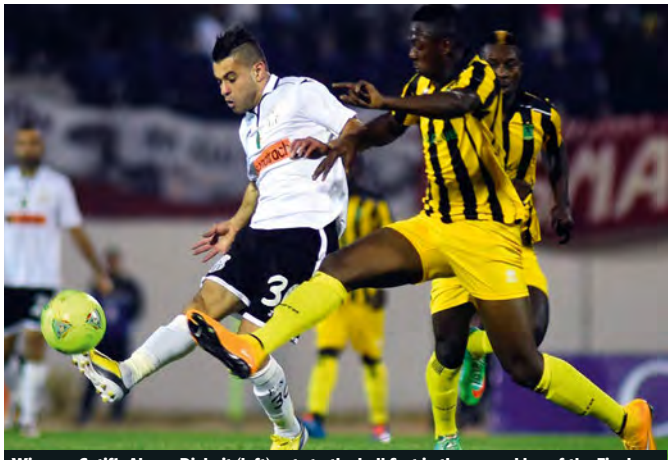
Continental shift...champions Setif celebrate Algeria's first success in African club football for more than a decade

"National federation officials wanted us to pull out for scheduling reasons and also because it was felt our club would not be very competitive in Africa," he said. "We lost a lot of our squad this year and had to rebuild."

Setif came through a tough all-Arab group, surprisingly failing to win a single game at home but grabbing two vital away victories to ensure they finished unbeaten and pipped Tunisia's Esperance to second place behind the favourites CS Sfaxien, also of Tunisia.

In the semi-finals, Setif had to overcome another of the heavily fancied sides in TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo. After a narrow 2-1 home win in the first leg, the Algerians were given little chance of holding on to a precarious lead in the return in Lubumbashi. But two bizarre goals – crosses miscued from the wings that spun viciously into the net – embellished by some eccentric goalkeeping from the hosts' Robert Kidiaba, ensured Setif went through to the Final on the away-goals rule after a 3-2 defeat in which they were surprisingly enterprising for an away team.

> "We tried to do our best and play good football. It was a great season. Nobody expected us to go this far"
>
> Vita coach Florent Ibenge


Winner...Setif's Akram Djahnit (left) gets to the ball first in the second leg of the Final

Setif's opponents in the Final were another Congolese side, AS Vita. Setif's only previous Champions Cup triumph had come in 1988 but Vita had not won Africa's top club prize since 1973.

The first leg was played in Kinshasa, in front of a capacity crowd of 50,000, at the Stade Tata Raphael, where George Foreman and Muhammad Ali fought for the world heavyweight crown 40 years previously in the so-called "Rumble in the Jungle".

Vita had not lost at home since 2012 in the Champions League, but they twice had to come from behind against the Algerian side to grab a 2-2 draw.

The second leg was not played in Setif but was instead moved to a better surface in Blida, where Algeria's national side now play the majority of their matches.

A nervy first half was followed by a breakthrough goal four minutes into the second half from Sofiane Younes, stretching his leg out at the back post to convert a cross-field pass from El Hedi Belameiri that had eluded the Vita defence.

But the Congolese equalised five minutes later through Lema Mabidi, who had also scored his club's two goals in the first leg.

Vita were the more enterprising in the latter stages but Setif held on grimly for another away-goals triumph after a 3-3 aggregate draw. Significantly, the win came on the day of the 60th anniversary of Algerian independence.

Mark Gleeson

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: QUALIFIERS

Holders miss out on finals' line-up

Desperate measures...Nigeria's Ahmed Musa tries to shake off Eric Mathoho of South Africa during their final qualifying game in Uyo

Defending champions Nigeria and record seven-times winners Egypt were the major casualties in a taxing sprint as Africa completed the group phase of the Nations Cup qualifiers in just three months.

Nigeria paid the price for months of post-World Cup boardroom intrigue and the uncertainty surrounding the extended tenure of coach Stephen Keshi, who has been working without a contract since reaching the second round in Brazil. A power struggle over the running of the Nigeria Football Federation effectively sabotaged the team's qualifying campaign.

Finishing third in Group A, with just two wins, the "Super Eagles" will be unable to defend their crown in Equatorial Guinea, while Egypt miss out for a third successive tournament.

Both countries were still in with a chance going into their last game, with Nigeria needing a home triumph over South Africa to go through and a sequence of results suddenly offering Egypt the chance to sneak in through the back door as the best third-placed finisher.

Nigeria have long held a psychological upper hand over South Africa and had won all of their previous home games against their political and economic rivals. And so it was expected that they would baptise the new Akwa Ibom Stadium in Uyo with a victory – particularly as South Africa had already won the group and were without several key players.

However, the visitors were 2-0 up just after half-time, and although two goals from Sone Aluko earned a draw it wasn't enough. Combined with a 1-0 win for Congo over Sudan in Khartoum, it meant Nigeria finished third and out of the qualifying places.

They could not even have gone through as the best third-placed finishers across the seven groups as the DR Congo had already amassed nine points in Group D, where they finished behind Cameroon and Ivory Coast.

The only country who could catch the Congolese were Egypt, but only if they won 2-0 in Tunisia in their last group game.

They were on schedule at half-time in Monastir after Mohamed Salah opened thescoring in the 15th minute. But instead of adding a second after the break they conceded twice as Tunisia came back to win 2-1.

Ivory Coast limped into the finals after gaining the point they needed in a goalless home draw with 10-man Cameroon, while Ghana – who were far from impressive in the qualifiers – finished top of their group after beating Togo 3-1 in their last game.

Behind them were Guinea, who qualified, ironically, in Morocco – the country that was stripped of the hosting rights in the spat over the Ebola virus outbreak. Guinea, one of the three west African countries worst hit by the deadly virus, had been barred from hosting home games, so moved their matches to Casablanca, with Morocco's help.

Algeria had the best record of all, but they were denied a maximum 18 points from their six games when Mali beat them 2-0 in Bamako to qualify as Group B runners-up.

Cape Verde's fairy tale continued into a second tournament as one of the continent's smallest countries were comfortable qualifiers, along with Zambia, from Group F.

Cameroon were also impressive as they bounced back from the excesses of the summer's World Cup in Brazil to put together an efficient qualifying campaign after considerable changes to their team – and without the disruptive input of Samuel Eto'o.

Mark Gleeson

> "The NFF takes full responsibility for what has happened. It is a tragedy for us to come so near and yet fail to reach the finals"
>
> Nigeria Football Federation president Amaju Pinnick

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2015 QUALIFIERS

- ALGERIA
- BURKINA FASO
- CAMEROON
- CAPE VERDE
- CONGO
- DR CONGO
- EQUATORIAL GUINEA (hosts)
- GABON
- GHANA
- GUINEA
- IVORY COAST
- MALI
- SENEGAL
- SOUTH AFRICA
- TUNISIA
- ZAMBIA

Through...Tunisia (white) see off Eqypt

Champion...Rodionov

BELARUS

Nine in a row

BATE were crowned champions for a ninth consecutive season – and with two games to go – with a 4-0 win against Naftan Novopolotsk. Unbeaten since the first day of the season, they clinched their 11th title in total with goals from Mikhail Gordeychuk, Vitali Rodionov (two) and Aleksandr Karnitski.

"This title is much more important to me than the previous one because 2014 is the first year I've worked on my own," said coach Aleksandr Yermakovich.

BULGARIA

Snowball KOs coach

CSKA coach Stoycho Mladenov was knocked unconscious by a snowball thrown by rival Levski fans during the Sofia derby.

"They hit me with a snowball and I lost consciousness," the 57-year-old Mladenov told reporters. "It's not the first, second or third Levski offence. They should throw them out of the league.

"Tomorrow, someone could die."

Mladenov was hit on the head in the early stages of the game, which CSKA won 3-0, and collapsed on the athletics track surrounding the pitch.

However, not everyone was convinced, with Vladimir Vladimirov, the head of Levski's supporters' club claiming: "Children play with snowballs the whole winter but I haven't heard of anyone who has collapsed.

"It was disgusting to watch, his over-acting

Club Results

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Oct 22
Atletico Madrid (Spa) 5 (Koke 48, Mandzukic 61, Griezmann 63, Godin 87, Cerci 90+3)
Malmo (Swe) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,502. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
Atletico: Moya - Juanfran, Miranda, Godin, Siqueira, Mario Suarez, Saul Niguez, Koke, Arda (Raul Garcia 68), Griezmann (Rodriguez 72), Mandzukic (Cerci 77).
Malmo: Olsen - Johansson, Halsti, Helander, Tinnerholm, Ricardinho (Konate 90+1), Eriksson (Thern 87), Adu, Forsberg (Kroon 66), Thelin, Rosenberg.

Oct 22
Olympiakos (Gre) 1 (Kasami 36)
Juventus (Ita) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 31,411. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
Olympiakos: Roberto - Elabdellaoui, Botia, Abidal, Masuaku, Maniatis, Kasami (Giannoulis 90+1), Milivojevic, N'Dinga, Dominguez (David Fuster 85), Mitroglou (Afellay 69).
Juventus: Buffon - Ogbonna (Pereyra 77), Bonucci, Chiellini, Pirlo (Marchisio 57), Vidal, Pogba (Giovinco 87), Lichtsteiner, Asamoah, Morata, Tevez.

Nov 4
Juventus 3 (Pirlo 21, Roberto og 65, Pogba 66)
Olympiakos 2 (Botia 24, N'Dinga 61)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 39,091. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Juventus: Buffon - Lichtsteiner, Bonucci, Chiellini, Asamoah (Pereyra 83), Pirlo, Marchisio (Padoin 71), Pogba, Vidal, Tevez, Morata (Llorente 58).
Olympiakos: Roberto - Elabdellaoui, Botia, Abidal, Masuaku, N'Dinga (Kasami 77), Milivojevic, Maniatis (Diamantakos 83), Dominguez (David Fuster 72), Afellay, Mitroglou.

Nov 4
Malmo 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Koke 30, Raul Garcia 78)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,500. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Malmo: Olsen - Tinnerholm, Johansson (Kroon 64), Helander, Ricardinho, Eriksson, Adu, Halsti, Forsberg (Thern 87), Rosenberg, Thelin.
Atletico: Moya - Juanfran, Miranda, Godin, Siqueira, Koke, Gabi, Mario Suarez, Arda (Rodriguez 76), Mandzukic (Griezmann 69), Raul Garcia.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Madrid	4	3	0	1	10	3	9
Olympiakos	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
Juventus	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Malmo	4	1	0	3	2	9	3

Group B

Oct 22
Liverpool (Eng) 0
Real Madrid (Spa) 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 23, Benzema 30, 41)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 43,521. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Liverpool: Mignolet - Johnson, Lovren, Skrtel, Moreno, Henderson (Can 67), Gerrard, Allen, Coutinho (Markovic 68), Balotelli (Lallana 46), Sterling.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa, Pepe, Varane, Marcelo (Nacho 85), Modric, Kroos (Illarramendi 82), Isco, Rodriguez, Cristiano Ronaldo (Khedira 75), Benzema.

Oct 22
Ludogorets (Bul) 1 (Minev 90+2)
Basle (Swi) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 29,150. **Ref:** Aytekin (Ger)
Ludogorets: Stoyanov - Junior Caicara, Terziev, Moti, Minev, Dyakov, Fabio Espinho, Dani Abalo (Misidjan 77), Marcelinho, M Aleksandrov (Wanderson 81), Bezjak (Hamza 68).
Basle: Vaclik - Xhaka, Schar, Suchy, Aliji (Ajeti 75), Frei, El Neny, Die, Calla (Hamoudi 84), Gonzalez (Sio 88), Embolo. *Sent off: Die 18.*

Nov 4
Basle 4 (Embolo 34, Gonzalez 41, Gashi 59, Suchy 65)
Ludogorets 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,272. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Basle: Vaclik - Xhaka, Schar, Suchy, Safari, El Neny, Frei (Diaz 81), Gonzalez (Calla 69), Zuffi, Gashi (Delgado 74), Embolo.
Ludogorets: Stoyanov - Junior Caicara, Terziev, Moti (A Aleksandrov 21), Angulo, Dyakov, Fabio Espinho (Anicet 64), M Aleksandrov, Marcelinho, Dani Abalo, Bezjak (Hamza 46).

Nov 4
Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 27)
Liverpool 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 79,283. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa (Nacho 83), Varane, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Rodriguez (Bale 62), Modric, Kroos, Isco, Benzema (Hernandez 87), Cristiano Ronaldo.
Liverpool: Mignolet - Javi Manquillo, Skrtel, Toure, Moreno, Can (Coutinho 75), Lucas (Gerrard 69), Allen, Markovic (Sterling 69), Borini, Lallana.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid (Q)	4	4	0	0	11	2	12
Basle	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Liverpool	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Ludogorets	4	1	0	3	3	8	3

Group C

Oct 22
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 2 (Donati 58, Papadopoulos 63)
Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,254. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Leverkusen: Leno - Donati, Toprak, Spahic (Papadopoulos 60), Wendell, Bender, Reinartz, Bellarabi (Brandt 85), Calhanoglu (Jedvaj 82), Son, Kiessling. *Sent off: Wendell 79.*
Zenit: Lodygin - Anyukov, Garay, Lombaerts, Criscito, Javi Garcia, Witsel (Kerzhakov 82), Fayzulin (Shatov 62), Hulk, Danny, Rondon.

Oct 22
Monaco (Fra) 0
Benfica (Por) 0
Att: 12,776. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
Monaco: Subasic - Fabinho, Raggi, Ricardo Carvalho, Kurzawa, Toulalan, Joao Moutinho (Bernardo Silva 82), Kondogbia, Dirar, Berbatov (Martial 34), Ocampos (Ferreira Carrasco 62).
Benfica: Artur - Pereira, Luisao, Lopez, Eliseu, Andre Almeida, Salvio, Gaitan (Cesar 79), Perez (Samaris 88), Lima, Talisca (Tiago 69). *Sent off: Lopez 76.*

Nov 4
Benfica 1 (Talisca 82)
Monaco 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,565. **Ref:** Fernandez Borbalan (Spa)
Benfica: Julio Cesar - Pereira, Luisao, Jardel, Andre Almeida, Perez, Samaris (Lima 62), Salvio, Talisca, Gaitan (Tiago 90+1), Derley (Cristante 86).
Monaco: Subasic - Fabinho, Raggi, Ricardo Carvalho, Kurzawa, Joao Moutinho, Toulalan, Kondogbia (Germain 86), Ferreira Carrasco, Traore (Martial 72), Ocampos (Dirar 63).

Nov 4
Zenit St Petersburg 1 (Rondon 89)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Son 68, 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,010. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Zenit: Lodygin - Anyukov, Garay, Lombaerts, Criscito, Witsel, Javi Garcia, Hulk, Danny (Ryazantsev 79), Shatov (Arshavin 87), Kerzhakov (Rondon 79).
Leverkusen: Leno - Donati, Toprak, Spahic, Jedvaj (Boenisch 65), Calhanoglu, Bender, Bellarabi, Son, Brandt (Drmic 53), Kiessling (Kruse 90+1).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leverkusen	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Monaco	4	1	2	1	1	1	5
Zenit	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
Benfica	4	1	1	2	2	5	4

Group D

Oct 22
Anderlecht (Blg) 1 (Najar 71)
Arsenal (Eng) 2 (Gibbs 89, Podolski 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,881. **Ref:** Velasco Carballo (Spa)
Anderlecht: Proto - Vanden Borre, Mbemba, Deschacht, Acheampong, Tielemans, Defour, Najar, Praet (Dendoncker 88), Conte, Cyriac (Suarez 83).
Arsenal: Martinez - Chambers, Mertesacker, Monreal, Gibbs, Flamini (Oxlade-Chamberlain 75), Ramsey, Wilshere (Podolski 84), Sanchez, Cazorla, Welbeck (Campbell 75).

Oct 22
Galatasaray (Tur) 0
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 4 (Aubameyang 6, 18, Reus 41, Ramos 83)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 36,324. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Galatasaray: Muslera - Camdal, Chedjou, Semih, Alex Telles (Oztekin 62), Felipe Melo, Altintop (Dzemaili 61), Selcuk, Sneijder, Pandev (Emre Colak 78), Burak.
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Hummels (Gundogan 69), Papastathopoulos, Bender (Ginter 55), Kehl, Mkhitaryan, Kagawa (Ramos 82), Reus, Aubameyang.

Nov 4
Arsenal 3 (Arteta pen 25, Sanchez 29, Oxlade-Chamberlain 58)
Anderlecht 3 (Vanden Borre 61, pen 73, Mitrovic 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 59,872. **Ref:** Turpin (Fra)
Arsenal: Szczesny - Chambers, Mertesacker, Monreal, Gibbs, Ramsey, Arteta (Flamini 62), Oxlade-Chamberlain (Rosicky 83), Cazorla, Sanchez, Welbeck (Podolski 83).
Anderlecht: Proto - Vanden Borre, Mbemba (Dendoncker 53), Deschacht, Acheampong, Tielemans, Kljestan, Najar, Praet, Conte (Kawaya 46), Cyriac (Mitrovic 62).

Nov 4
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Reus 39, Papastathopoulos 56, Immobile 74, Semih og 86)
Galatasaray 1 (Hakan Balta 70)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,851. **Ref:** Kralovec (CzR)
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Papastathopoulos, Durm, Bender (Ramos 85), Kehl, Mkhitaryan, Kagawa (Gundogan 63), Reus (Immobile 71), Aubameyang.
Galatasaray: Muslera - Camdal, Chedjou, Semih, Hakan Balta, Selcuk, Felipe Melo, Altintop (Oztekin 82), Sneijder, Dzemaili, Umut (Burak 85).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dortmund (Q)	4	4	0	0	13	1	12
Arsenal	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
Anderlecht	4	0	2	2	5	9	2
Galatasaray	4	0	1	3	3	13	1

Group E

Oct 21
CSKA Moscow (Rus) 2 (Doumbia 65, Natcho pen 86)
Manchester City (Eng) 2 (Aguero 29, Milner 38)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Vad (Hun)
Played behind closed doors
CSKA: Akinfeev - Mario Fernandes, V Berezutsky, A Berezutsky (Doumbia 46; Cauna 90), Ignashevich, Schennikov, Tosic (Efremov 69), Eremenko, Natcho, Milanov, Musa.
Man City: Hart - Zabaleta, Kompany, Mangala, Kolarov, Toure, Fernando (Jovetic 86), Milner, Silva (Fernandinho 78), Aguero, Dzeko (Jesus Navas 72).

Oct 21
Roma (Ita) 1 (Gervinho 66)
Bayern Munich (Ger) 7 (Robben 9, 30, Gotze 23, Lewandowski 25, Muller pen 36, Ribery 78, Shaqiri 80)
HT: 0-5. **Att:** 70,544. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Roma: De Sanctis - Torosidis, Manolas, Yanga-Mbiwa, Cole (Holebas 46), Pjanic (Ljajic 79), De Rossi, Nainggolan, Iturbe, Totti (Florenzi 46), Gervinho.
Bayern: Neuer - Benatia, Boateng, Alaba, Xabi Alonso, Robben, Lahm, Bernat, Muller (Rafinha 60), Gotze (Shaqiri 79), Lewandowski (Ribery 68).

Nov 5
Bayern Munich 2 (Ribery 38, Gotze 64)
Roma 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 68,000. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Bayern: Neuer - Rafinha, Benatia, Boateng, Bernat, Xabi Alonso (Shaqiri 72), Lahm (Hojbjerg 88), Alaba (Rode 81), Gotze, Ribery, Lewandowski.
Roma: Skorupski - Torosidis, Yanga-Mbiwa, Manolas, Holebas (Cole 46), Florenzi (Pjanic 58), De Rossi, Keita, Nainggolan, Iturbe (Gervinho 74), Destro.

was so poor."

The game between the two most popular clubs in the country, which is known as the "eternal derby", has a history of crowd trouble and the 137th meeting between the two was no different. Police detained 57 fans before the game and more than 100 officers were needed to halt a pitch invasion by Levski fans after CSKA's third goal.

Emphatic...Levadia

ESTONIA

Champs finish in style

Levadia retained their league title with an emphatic 8-1 thrashing of Trans Narva on the final day of the season.

The defending champions started the day two points ahead of Tallinn city rivals Flora and made no mistake, with Igor Subbotin helping himself to four goals and taking his season tally to 32 – four behind Sillamae Kalev's Evgeni Kabaev who was the league's top scorer.

"The season was not easy as many players left the team," said Levadia coach Marko Kristal, who now has two league winners medals as coach to add to the seven he won as a player with Flora.

"We also had some downs, but I have to thank my lads. We deserved this title and I am very happy with that."

Flora lost 3-2 at Sillamae Kalev, who leapfrogged their opponents into second place, although both will enter next season's Europa League.

Tallinna Kalev are relegated, while Lokomotiv face Tulevik in a promotion-relegation play-off.

Nov 5
Manchester City 1 (Toure 8)
CSKA Moscow 2 (Doumbia 2, 34)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 45,143. **Ref:** Sidiropoulos (Gre)
Man City: Hart - Zabaleta, Kompany, Demichelis, Clichy, Fernando (Dzeko 65), Toure, Jesus Navas (Nasri 46), Jovetic (Fernandinho 46), Milner, Aguero. *Sent off: Fernandinho 70, Toure 82.*
CSKA: Akinfeev - Mario Fernandes, Ignashevich, V Berezutsky, Schennikov, Wernbloom, Natcho, Musa, Eremenko, Dzagoev (Efremov 86), Doumbia (Milanov 66).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern (Q)	4	4	0	0	11	1	12
Roma	4	1	1	2	7	11	4
CSKA Moscow	4	1	1	2	5	9	4
Man City	4	0	2	2	4	6	2

Group F

Oct 21
APOEL (Cyp) 0
Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 1 (Cavani 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,659. **Ref:** Hategan (Rom)
APOEL: Pardo - Mario Sergio, Joao Guilherme, Carlao, Antoniades (Riise 41), Vinicius, Nuno Morais (De Vincenti 80), Tiago Gomes, Efrem, Manduca, Sheridan (Djebbour 67).
PSG: Sirigu - Van der Wiel, Thiago Silva, David Luiz, Maxwell, Thiago Motta, Verratti (Bahebeck 70), Matuidi, Lucas Moura (Chantome 89), Cavani, Pastore (Cabaye 70).

Oct 21
Barcelona (Spa) 3 (Neymar 7, Messi 24, Sandro 90+4)
Ajax (Hol) 1 (El Ghazi 88)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 79,357. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Barcelona: Ter Stegen - Daniel Alves, Pique, Bartra, Jordi Alba, Mascherano, Rakitic, Iniesta (Rafinha 76), Pedro, Messi (Munir 67), Neymar (Sandro 62).
Ajax: Cillessen - Van Rhijn, Veltman, Moisander, Viergever, Zimling (Riedewald 56), Klaassen, Andersen, Schone, Sigthorsson (El Ghazi 73), Kishna (Milik 46).

Nov 5
Ajax 0
Barcelona 2 (Messi 36, 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 52,117. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Ajax: Cillessen - Van Rhijn, Veltman, Moisander, Boilesen, Serero (Denswil 80), Klaassen, Andersen (Riedewald 72), El Ghazi, Sigthorsson (Milik 62), Schone. *Sent off: Veltman 71.*
Barcelona: Ter Stegen - Daniel Alves (Adriano 83), Bartra, Mascherano, Jordi Alba, Busquets, Rakitic (Rafinha 80), Xavi, Suarez, Messi, Neymar (Pedro 75).

Nov 5
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Cavani 1)
APOEL 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,816. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
PSG: Sirigu - Van der Wiel, Thiago Silva, David Luiz, Maxwell, Thiago Motta, Pastore, Matuidi, Lucas Moura (Cabaye 86), Lavezzi (Bahebeck 78), Cavani.
APOEL: Pardo - Mario Sergio, Joao Guilherme, Carlao, Ioannou, Nuno Morais, Vinicius, Tiago Gomes (Sheridan 46), Efrem, Manduca (De Vincenti 59), Djebbour (Aloneftis 65).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSG (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	3	10
Barcelona (Q)	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
Ajax	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
APOEL	4	0	1	3	1	4	1

Group G

Oct 21
Chelsea (Eng) 6 (Remy 13, Drogba pen 23, Terry 31, Viler og 54, Hazard pen 77, 90)
Maribor (Sln) 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 41,126. **Ref:** Makkelie (Hol)
Chelsea: Cech - Ivanovic, Zouma, Terry, Filipe Luis, Willian, Fabregas (Ake 60), Matic, Hazard, Oscar (Solanke 73), Remy (Drogba 16).
Maribor: Handanovic - Stojanovic, Rajcevic, Suler, Viler (Vrsic 57), Mejac, Mertelj, Filipovic, Bohar, Ibraimi (Zahovic 68), Tavares (Mendy 72).

Oct 21
Schalke (Ger) 4 (Obasi 34, Huntelaar 51, Howedes 60, Choupo-Moting pen 90+3)
Sporting Lisbon (Por) 3 (Nani 16, Adrien Silva pen 64, 78)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 49,943. **Ref:** Karasev (Rus)
Schalke: Fahrmann - Uchida, Ayhan, Howedes, Aogo, Hoger, Neustadter, Obasi (Meyer 65), Boateng (Choupo-Moting 46), Draxler (Sam 82), Huntelaar.
Sporting: Rui Patricio - Cedric Soares, Paulo Oliveira, Mauricio, J Silva, William Carvalho, Joao Mario (Sarr 38), Adrien Silva, Carrillo (Capel 89), Nani, Slimani (Montero 25). *Sent off: Mauricio 33.*

Nov 5
Maribor 1 (Ibraimi 50)
Chelsea 1 (Matic 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,646. **Ref:** Orsato (Ita)
Maribor: Handanovic - Stojanovic, Rajcevic, Arghus, Viler, Mertelj, Filipovic, Ibraimi (Bohar 90), Sallalich (N'Diaye 90+2), Zahovic (Mendy 73), Tavares.
Chelsea: Cech - Ivanovic, Zouma, Terry, Filipe Luis (Ramires 56), Fabregas, Matic, Willian (Oscar 46), Schurrle (Diego Costa 46), Hazard, Drogba.

Nov 5
Sporting Lisbon 4 (Sarr 26, Jefferson 52, Nani 72, Slimani 90+1)
Schalke 2 (Slimani og 17, Aogo 88)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,473. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Sporting: Rui Patricio - Cedric Soares, Paulo Oliveira, Sarr, Jefferson, William Carvalho, Joao Mario (Oriol Rosell 82), Adrien Silva, Carlos Mane (Carrillo 68), Nani (Capel 89), Slimani.
Schalke: Fahrmann - Uchida, Howedes, Neustadter, Fuchs (Kirchhoff 78), Hoger, Aogo, Obasi (Sam 69), Meyer (Boateng 65), Choupo-Moting, Huntelaar.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	4	2	2	0	9	2	8
Schalke	4	1	2	1	8	9	5
Sporting	4	1	1	2	8	8	4
Maribor	4	0	3	1	3	9	3

Group H

Oct 21
BATE Borisov (Bls) 0
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 7 (Alex Teixeira 11, Luiz Adriano pen 28, 36, 40, 44, pen 82, Douglas Costa 35)
HT: 0-6. **Att:** 12,113. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)
BATE: Chernik - Khagush, Polyakov, Tubic (Gayduchik 46), Mladenovic, Yablonski, Likhtarovich (Aleksievich 46), Gordeychuk, Karnitski, M Volodko, Signevich (Baga 75).
Shakhtar: Pyatov - Srna, Kucher, Rakitskyi, Shevchuk, Fernando (Fred 46), Stepanenko, Douglas Costa (Marlos 46), Alex Teixeira, Taison (Bernard 46), Luiz Adriano.

Oct 21
Porto (Por) 2 (Herrera 45, Quaresma 75)
Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 1 (Guillermo 58)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,116. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Porto: Fabiano - Danilo, Maicon, Martins Indi, Alex Sandro, Herrera, Casemiro (Quaresma 71), Quintero (Ruben Neves 64), Tello (Oliver 82), Martinez, Brahimi.
Athletic: Iraizoz - De Marcos, Etxeita, Laporte, Balenziaga, San Jose (Muniain 46), Iturraspe, Guillermo, Mikel Rico (Gurpegi 73), Susaeta, Aduriz (Benat 46).

Nov 5
Athletic Bilbao 0
Porto 2 (Martinez 56, Brahimi 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 47,243. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Athletic: Iraizoz - De Marcos, Gurpegi, Laporte, Balenziaga, San Jose, Mikel Rico, Susaeta (Muniain 46), Ibai Gomez (Viguera 73), Benat (Iraola 46), Guillermo.
Porto: Fabiano - Danilo, Maicon, Martins Indi, Alex Sandro, Oliver (Ruben Neves 82), Casemiro, Herrera, Tello (Quaresma 60), Brahimi (Adrian 90+1), Martinez.

Nov 5
Shakhtar Donetsk 5 (Srna 19, Alex Teixeira 48, Luiz Adriano pen 58, 83, 90+3)
BATE Borisov 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 29,173. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Shakhtar: Pyatov - Srna, Ordets, Rakitskyi, Shevchuk (Marlos 64), Fernando (Fred 66), Stepanenko, Douglas Costa, Taison (Bernard 73), Alex Teixeira, Luiz Adriano.
BATE: Chernik - Khagush, Gayduchik, Polyakov, Mladenovic, Yablonski (M Volodko 59), A Volodko, Yakovlev (Olekhnovich 46), Gordeychuk, Karnitski, Signevich (Rodionov 70). *Sent off: Khagush 45+3.*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto (Q)	4	3	1	0	12	3	10
Shakhtar	4	2	2	0	14	2	8
BATE Borisov	4	1	0	3	2	19	3
Athletic Bilbao	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

Remaining matchdays: *Nov 25/26, Dec 9/10*

● *Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round (last 16); 3rd-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage (last 32)*

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A
Oct 23: Monchengladbach (Ger) 5 Apollon (Cyp) 0; Villarreal (Spa) 4 Zurich (Swi) 1.
Nov 6: Apollon 0 Monchengladbach 2; Zurich 3 Villarreal 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M'gladbach	4	2	2	0	9	2	8
Villarreal	4	2	1	1	11	5	7
Zurich	4	1	1	2	7	10	4
Apollon	4	1	0	3	3	13	3

Group B
Oct 23: Club Brugge (Blg) 1 Copenhagen (Den) 1; Torino (Ita) 2 HJK Helsinki (Fin) 0.
Nov 6: Copenhagen 0 Club Brugge 4; HJK Helsinki 2 Torino 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	4	2	2	0	8	1	8
Torino	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Copenhagen	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
HJK Helsinki	4	1	0	3	2	8	3

Group C
Oct 23: Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 0 Besiktas (Tur) 4; Tottenham Hotspur (Eng) 5 Asteras (Gre) 1.
Nov 6: Asteras 1 Tottenham Hotspur 2; Besiktas 2 Partizan Belgrade 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Tottenham	4	2	2	0	8	3	8
Asteras	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Partizan	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

Group D
Oct 23: Celtic (Sco) 2 Astra (Rom) 1; Salzburg (Aut) 4 Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 2.
Nov 6: Astra 1 Celtic 1; Dinamo Zagreb 1 Salzburg 5.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg (Q)	4	3	1	0	13	6	10
Celtic	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Dinamo Zagreb	4	1	0	3	8	11	3
Astra	4	0	1	3	4	10	1

Group E
Oct 23: Estoril (Por) 1 Dynamo Moscow (Rus) 2; PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1 Panathinaikos (Gre) 1.
Nov 6: Dynamo Moscow 1 Estoril 0; Panathinaikos 2 PSV Eindhoven 3.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo M'w (Q)	4	4	0	0	6	2	12
PSV	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Estoril	4	1	0	3	3	4	3
Panathinaikos	4	0	1	3	4	8	1

Group F
Oct 23: Dnipro (Ukr) 0 Qarabag (Aze) 1; Internazionale (Ita) 0 Saint-Etienne (Fra) 0.
Nov 6: Qarabag 1 Dnipro 2; Saint-Etienne 1 Internazionale 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
Dnipro	4	1	1	2	2	3	4
Qarabag	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Saint-Etienne	4	0	4	0	1	1	4

Group G
Oct 23: Rijeka (Cro) 3 Feyenoord (Hol) 1; Standard Liege (Blg) 0 Sevilla (Spa) 0.
Nov 6: Feyenoord 2 Rijeka 0; Sevilla 3 Standard Liege 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sevilla	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Feyenoord	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Standard Liege	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Rijeka	4	1	1	2	5	7	4

Group H
Oct 23: Krasnodar (Rus) 2 Wolfsburg (Ger) 4; Lille (Fra) 0 Everton (Eng) 0.
Nov 6: Everton 3 Lille 0; Wolfsburg 5 Krasnodar 1.

GREECE

Fan fatality

Third-tier side Irodotos were docked 15 points after the death of an opposition fan at their home game against Ethnikos Piraeus. The club from Crete were also ordered to play 10 home games behind closed doors.

All Greek team sports were postponed in the first week of October as a mark of respect.

Twenty-fours hours after announcing that he was leaving OFI, coach Gennaro Gattuso reversed his decision and decided to stay with the Crete-based club.

"It's difficult for me to continue," said the 36-year-old Italian after a 3-2 loss to Asteras Tripolis. "I put passion and strength into this and I'm sorry, but I cannot continue. I spent four incredible months in a marvellous city with wonderful fans.

"I cannot continue to carry this situation on my shoulders alone."

However, a statement was released by the club on Gattuso's behalf the following day stating: "I have now stepped back and will start from the beginning stronger and more united than ever."

Change of heart...Gattuso

ISRAEL

Attacked star sees red

The Tel Aviv derby between Hapoel and Maccabi was abandoned at half-time after a supporter attacked a player – who was then sent off for retaliating.

Shortly after Maccabi's Eran Zahavi had equalised for the visitors from the penalty spot, the Israel international was confronted

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	4	2	2	0	8	2	8
Wolfsburg	4	2	1	1	11	8	7
Lille	4	0	3	1	2	5	3
Krasnodar	4	0	2	2	5	11	2

Group I

Oct 23: Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 0 Sparta Prague (CzR) 3; Young Boys (Swi) 2 Napoli (Ita) 0.
Nov 6: Napoli 3 Young Boys 0; Sparta Prague 4 Slovan Bratislava 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Sparta Prague	4	3	0	1	11	4	9
Young Boys	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
Slovan B'slava	4	0	0	4	0	14	0

Group J

Oct 23: AaB (Den) 3 Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 0; Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 2 Rio Ave (Por) 1.
Nov 6: Dynamo Kiev 2 AaB 0; Rio Ave 2 Steaua Bucharest 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP J

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Kiev	4	3	0	1	8	4	9
Steaua	4	2	1	1	11	6	7
AaB	4	2	0	2	4	8	6
Rio Ave	4	0	1	3	3	8	1

Group K

Oct 23: Dinamo Minsk (Bls) 0 Guingamp (Fra) 0; PAOK Salonika (Gre) 0 Fiorentina (Ita) 1.
Nov 6: Fiorentina 1 PAOK Salonika 1; Guingamp 2 Dinamo Minsk 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP K

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fiorentina (Q)	4	3	1	0	8	1	10
Guingamp	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
PAOK Salonika	4	1	1	2	7	5	4
Dinamo Minsk	4	0	1	3	1	11	1

Group L

Oct 22: Metalist (Ukr) 0 Legia Warsaw (Pol) 1.
Oct 23: Trabzonspor (Tur) 2 Lokeren (Blg) 0.
Nov 6: Legia Warsaw 2 Metalist 1; Lokeren 1 Trabzonspor 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP L

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia (Q)	4	4	0	0	5	1	12
Trabzonspor	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Lokeren	4	1	1	2	2	4	4
Metalist	4	0	0	4	2	6	0

Remaining matchdays: *Nov 27, Dec 11*

● *Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round (last 32), in which they will be joined by the 8 3rd-placed teams from Champions League group stage*

AUSTRIA

Oct 25: Sturm 1 Rapid 3; Austria 2 Wiener Neustadt 0; Wolfsberger 0 Altach 0; Admira 0 Ried 0.
Oct 26: Grodig 2 Salzburg 2.
Nov 1: Austria 0 Sturm 3; Salzburg 2 Admira 0; Ried 1 Wolfsberger 0.
Nov 2: Altach 2 Rapid 0.
Nov 5: Wiener Neustadt 2 Grodig 4.
Nov 8: Wolfsberger 0 Sturm 2; Grodig 0 Ried 1; Admira 1 Wiener Neustadt 1.
Nov 9: Rapid 2 Austria 3; Altach 4 Salzburg 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	15	10	1	4	48	18	31
Wolfsberger	15	9	1	5	24	14	28
Altach	15	6	6	3	21	18	24
Rapid	15	6	4	5	24	21	22
Sturm	15	6	4	5	21	18	22
Austria	15	4	7	4	19	23	19
Grodig	15	4	6	5	19	26	18
Ried	15	4	4	7	16	23	16
Admira	15	3	6	6	15	22	15
W Neustadt	15	2	3	10	16	40	9

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

BELGIUM

Regular season

Oct 24: Lierse 0 Mechelen 1.
Oct 25: Waasland-Beveren 0 Genk 1; Charleroi 2 Oostende 0; Zulte Waregem 1 Cercle Brugge 2; Westerlo 2 Kortrijk 1.
Oct 26: Club Brugge 2 Gent 2; Anderlecht 0 Standard 2; Mouscron Peruwelz 2 Lokeren 2.
Oct 28: Genk 3 Lierse 0; Mechelen 1 Zulte Waregem 1.
Oct 29: Gent 4 Waasland-Beveren 1; Oostende 4 Westerlo 0; Lokeren 5 Charleroi 2; Kortrijk 2 Anderlecht 3; Cercle Brugge 0 Standard 1.
Oct 30: Mouscron Peruwelz 1 Club Brugge 4.
Oct 31: Zulte Waregem 2 Genk 0.
Nov 1: Anderlecht 1 Lokeren 1; Standard 2 Mechelen 0; Waasland-Beveren 1 Oostende 0; Cercle Brugge 0 Kortrijk 4.
Nov 2: Lierse 0 Gent 1; Charleroi 0 Club Brugge 0; Westerlo 1 Mouscron Peruwelz 3.
Nov 7: Oostende 1 Zulte Waregem 3.
Nov 8: Mouscron Peruwelz 0 Charleroi 2; Kortrijk 1 Lierse 0; Mechelen 1 Cercle Brugge 1.
Nov 9: Gent 0 Anderlecht 2; Club Brugge 5 Westerlo 0; Genk 0 Standard 2; Lokeren 3 Waasland-Beveren 0.

BELGIUM – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	15	8	6	1	25	15	30
Club Brugge	15	7	7	1	33	14	28
Lokeren	15	7	5	3	27	18	26
Gent	15	7	5	3	23	15	26
Standard[1]	14	7	3	4	25	21	24
Kortrijk	15	7	1	7	23	23	22
Genk	15	5	7	3	18	16	22
Westerlo	15	5	5	5	25	32	20
Mechelen	15	5	4	6	22	22	19
Charleroi	15	5	4	6	19	21	19
Oostende	15	5	3	7	20	22	18
Mouscron P	15	4	5	6	22	24	17
Waasland-B	15	4	2	9	13	22	14
Z Waregem[1]	14	3	4	7	18	24	13
Cercle Brugge	15	3	4	8	11	22	13
Lierse	15	3	3	9	14	27	12

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 will form championship group, 7th to 14th will enter Europa League-place play-offs, 15th & 16th (bottom 2) will enter relegation play-off series (the winners of which will enter rel/prom play-offs, the losers will go down)
[1]Result of Standard v Zulte Waregem game (played on Oct 19) subject to appeal

CZECH REPUBLIC

Oct 24: Jihlava 2 Brno 0; Ceske Budejovice 1 Slavia 1; Bohemians 1905 2 Liberec 4.
Oct 25: Jablonec 4 Teplice 2; Pribram 3 Ostrava 1; Hradec Kralove 2 Dukla 4; Slovacko 0 Plzen 1.
Oct 26: Sparta 1 Mlada Boleslav 0.
Oct 28: Dukla 0 Pribram 0.
Oct 31: Mlada Boleslav 1 Bohemians 1905 0.
Nov 1: Dukla 3 Ceske Budejovice 1; Slavia 3 Pribram 2; Ostrava 2 Hradec Kralove 1; Teplice 2 Jihlava 3; Brno 0 Slovacko 1; Plzen 2 Sparta 0.
Nov 2: Liberec 0 Jablonec 1.
Nov 7: Pribram 1 Teplice 1; Dukla 2 Slavia 2.
Nov 8: Ceske Budejovice 1 Ostrava 0; Jablonec 1 Mlada Boleslav 0.
Nov 9: Hradec Kralove 0 Liberec 0; Slovacko 0 Sparta 2; Jihlava 2 Plzen 1.
Nov 10: Bohemians 1905 0 Brno 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plzen	14	10	2	2	29	10	32
Sparta	14	10	1	3	20	7	31
Jablonec	14	9	3	2	27	11	30
Ostrava	14	6	3	5	11	18	21
M Boleslav	14	6	2	6	17	12	20
Dukla	14	5	5	4	18	21	20
Teplice	14	4	6	4	23	18	18
Slovacko	14	5	3	6	23	21	18
Slavia	14	5	3	6	20	21	18
Boh'ians 1905	14	5	2	7	18	22	17
Jihlava	14	5	2	7	13	18	17
Pribram	14	4	4	6	18	23	16
C Budejovice	14	3	6	5	13	26	15
Liberec	14	2	8	4	17	15	14
Brno	14	3	4	7	15	22	13
H Kralove	14	1	4	9	9	26	7

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

DENMARK

Oct 24: Silkeborg 1 Vestsjaelland 2.
Oct 25: SonderjyskE 1 Midtjylland 1.
Oct 26: Randers 3 OB 0; Hobro 0 Copenhagen 2; Esbjerg 0 Brondby 0.
Oct 27: Nordsjaelland 0 AaB 1.
Oct 31: Midtjylland 2 Nordsjaelland 0.
Nov 1: Vestsjaelland 1 Esbjerg 4.
Nov 2: OB 3 Hobro 1; Copenhagen 1 SonderjyskE 1; Brondby 1 Randers 0.
Nov 3: AaB 2 Silkeborg 0.
Nov 7: Silkeborg 1 Midtjylland 2.
Nov 8: Randers 3 Esbjerg 2.
Nov 9: SonderjyskE 2 OB 1; AaB 2 Vestsjaelland 0; Hobro 3 Brondby 0; Nordsjaelland 0 Copenhagen 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Midtjylland	14	11	1	2	30	14	34
Randers	14	7	3	4	15	11	24
Copenhagen	14	6	5	3	14	12	23
AaB	14	5	6	3	15	10	21
Brondby	14	6	3	5	19	15	21
Nordsjaelland	14	6	3	5	17	19	21
Hobro	14	5	5	4	21	19	20
SonderjyskE	14	3	9	2	16	16	18
Esbjerg	14	3	6	5	19	17	15
Vestsjaelland	14	4	2	8	15	27	14
OB	14	3	3	8	16	22	12
Silkeborg	14	0	4	10	8	23	4

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

ENGLAND

Saturday, October 25

Liverpool 0
Hull 0 Att: 44,591

Southampton 1 (Mane 33)
Stoke 0 Att: 30,017

Sunderland 0
Arsenal 2 (Sanchez 30, 90+2) Att: 44,449

Swansea 2 (Bony 34, 57)
Leicester 0 Att: 20,259

West Bromwich 2 (Anichebe 51, Berahino pen 90+3)
Crystal Palace 2 (Hangeland 16, Jedinak pen 45+1) Att: 24,738

West Ham 2 (Amalfitano 21, Sakho 75)
Manchester City 1 (Silva 77) Att: 34,977

Sunday, October 26

Burnley 1 (Ings 20)
Everton 3 (Eto'o 4, 85, Lukaku 29) Att: 19,927

Manchester United 1 (Van Persie 90+4)
Chelsea 1 (Drogba 53) Att: 75,327

Tottenham 1 (Adebayor 18)
Newcastle 2 (Ameobi 46, Perez 58) Att: 35,650

Monday, October 27

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Austin 17, 69)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 18,022

Saturday, November 1

Arsenal 3 (Sanchez 70, 90+1, Chambers 72)
Burnley 0 Att: 60,012

Chelsea 2 (Oscar 32, Hazard pen 75)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 62)
Att: 41,486

Everton 0
Swansea 0 Att: 39,149

Hull 0
Southampton 1 (Wanyama 3) Att: 22,828

Leicester 0
West Bromwich 1 (Cambiasso og 47) Att: 31,819

Newcastle 1 (Perez 73)
Liverpool 0 Att: 52,166

Stoke 2 (Moses 33, Diouf 56)
West Ham 2 (Valencia 60, Downing 73)
Att: 27,174

Sunday, November 2

Aston Villa 1 (Weimann 16)
Tottenham 2 (Chadli 84, Kane 90) Att: 32,049

Manchester City 1 (Aguero 63)
Manchester United 0 Att: 45,358

Monday, November 3

Crystal Palace 1 (Brown og 55)
Sunderland 3 (Fletcher 31, 90+5, Jordi Gomez 79)
Att: 23,212

Saturday, November 8

Burnley 1 (Barnes 50)
Hull 0 Att: 16,998

Liverpool 1 (Can 9)
Chelsea 2 (Cahill 14, Diego Costa 67) Att: 44,698

Manchester United 1 (Mata 67)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 75,325

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Austin 21, Demichelis og 76)
Manchester City 2 (Aguero 32, 83) Att: 18,005

Southampton 2 (Long 75, 80)
Leicester 0 Att: 31,297

West Ham 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 34,857

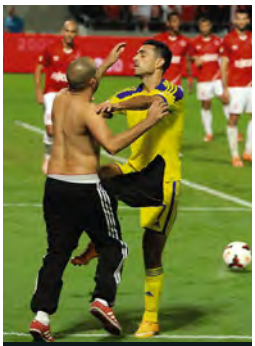
on the pitch by a fan. The 27-year-old midfielder fought off his attacker, who was then restrained by security staff and led away.

However, Zahavi was shown a red card, which led to further pitch invasions and forced the referee to abandon the game.

"This was not a game of football, it was war," said Hapoel coach Eyal Berkovic. "I'm stunned and ashamed to be involved in football on a day like today."

Both sides had two points deducted and none awarded for a match that was officially recorded as a 0-0 draw after being abandoned at 1-1.

The following day, 100 supporters of the rival teams clashed outside the court where those arrested at the game were being dealt with.


Defending himself...Zahavi

KAZAKHSTAN

Astana's first title

Astana were crowned league champions for the first time after beating Kaysar Kyzylorda 3-0. Club coach Stanimir Stoilov, who also won two titles in his native Bulgaria when in charge of Levski Sofia, said: "We deserved this title. We were very well organised and disciplined."

LATVIA

Three out of four

Ventspils won the league for the third time in four years, with two games to spare, with a 4-2 win away to closest challengers Skonto. Cheikh Saad, Simonas Paulius, Girts Karlsons and Ahmed Abdultaofik were on target for the visitors, while Vladislavs Gutkovskis scored twice for Skonto.

Sunday, November 9
Sunderland 1 (Larsson 67)
Everton 1 (Baines pen 76) Att: 43,476

Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson 75, Gomis 78)
Arsenal 1 (Sanchez 63) Att: 20,812

Tottenham 1 (Chadli 77)
Stoke 2 (Bojan 6, Walters 33) Att: 35,699

West Bromwich 0
Newcastle 2 (Perez 45, Coloccini 62) Att: 26,476

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	11	9	2	0	28	11	29
Southampton	11	8	1	2	23	5	25
Man City	11	6	3	2	22	12	21
West Ham	11	5	3	3	19	14	18
Swansea	11	5	3	3	15	11	18
Arsenal	11	4	5	2	19	13	17
Man United	11	4	4	3	17	14	16
Newcastle	11	4	4	3	13	15	16
Stoke	11	4	3	4	12	13	15
Everton	11	3	5	3	20	18	14
Liverpool	11	4	2	5	14	15	14
Tottenham	11	4	2	5	14	16	14
West Brom	11	3	4	4	13	15	13
Sunderland	11	2	6	3	12	19	12
Hull	11	2	5	4	13	15	11
Aston Villa	11	3	2	6	5	16	11
Crystal Palace	11	2	3	6	14	20	9
Leicester	11	2	3	6	11	18	9
QPR	11	2	2	7	11	22	8
Burnley	11	1	4	6	6	19	7

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers
12 Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)
10 Diego Costa (Chelsea)
8 Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal)
7 Saido Berahino (West Bromwich)

ESTONIA

ESTONIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levadia (C)	36	26	6	4	112	19	84
Sillamae	36	25	4	7	108	34	79
Flora	36	24	7	5	88	36	79
Kalju	36	24	6	6	85	19	78
Infonet	36	19	9	8	80	44	66
Paide	36	9	8	19	39	67	35
Tammeka	36	7	7	22	37	83	28
Trans	36	6	10	20	37	79	28
Lokomotiv[1]	36	4	6	26	35	115	18
T'na Kalev (R)	36	3	3	30	21	146	12

[1]*Enter rel/prom play-off*

FAROE ISLANDS

FAROE ISLANDS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B36 (C)	27	19	4	4	53	25	61
HB	27	18	6	3	59	20	60
Vikingur	27	13	10	4	60	30	49
NSI	27	12	4	11	53	42	40
EB/Streymur	27	11	7	9	41	33	40
KI	27	10	6	11	41	38	36
IF	27	7	7	13	36	52	28
AB	27	6	7	14	30	61	25
Skala (R)	27	3	8	16	19	54	17
B68 (R)	27	4	5	18	23	60	17

FINLAND

FINLAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK (C)	33	20	9	4	62	25	69
SJK	33	16	11	6	40	26	59
Lahti	33	15	13	5	45	23	58
VPS	33	13	9	11	39	34	48
Mariehamn	33	14	6	13	49	55	48
Jaro	33	12	8	13	47	47	44
KuPS	33	11	11	11	44	44	44
MyPa	33	10	9	14	41	54	39
RoPS	33	11	5	17	37	41	38
Inter	33	8	12	13	42	47	36
Honka	33	6	13	14	38	57	31
TPS (R)	33	6	6	21	29	60	24

FRANCE

Friday, October 24
Toulouse 0
Lens 2 (El Jadeyaoui 11, Bourigeaud 27)
Att: 12,105

Saturday, October 25
Bastia 1 (Maboulou 21)
Monaco 3 (Germain 5, Kondogbia 78, Ferreira Carrasco 84) Att: 13,106

Caen 2 (Nangis 3, Duhamel pen 53)
Lorient 1 (Ayew pen 24) Att: 15,963

Evian TG 0
Nantes 2 (Veretout pen 42, Bammou 75)
Att: 10,063

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Lucas Moura pen 45+3, pen 50, Lavezzi 81)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 46,077

Reims 1 (Moukandjo 90)
Montpellier 0 Att: 11,331

Sunday, October 26
Guingamp 2 (Beauvue 8, Schwartz 70)
Nice 7 (Carlos Eduardo 12, 26, 43, 50, 65, Plea 45+1, Bautheac 72) Att: 14,664

Lyon 1 (Gourcuff 66)
Marseille 0 Att: 38,712

Rennes 2 (Habibou 47, Doucoure 54)
Lille 0 Att: 17,392

Saint-Etienne 1 (Gradel 74)
Metz 0 Att: 33,991

Friday, October 31
Monaco 1 (Echiejile 20)
Reims 1 (Moukandjo 80) Att: 5,488

Saturday, November 1
Guingamp 1 (Yatabare 32)
Bastia 0 Att: 14,293

Lille 1 (Frey 16)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Gradel 60) Att: 36,170

Lorient 1 (Guerreiro 42)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Cavani 60, Bahebeck 69)
Att: 15,652

Metz 3 (Maiga 10, 50, Malouda pen 90)
Caen 2 (Calve 65, Koita 83) Att: 17,864

Montpellier 2 (Berigaud 32, Mounier 90)
Evian TG 0 Att: 8,440

Nice 1 (Puel 51)
Lyon 3 (Malbranque 64, Lacazette 80, 90+4)
Att: 15,677

Sunday, November 2
Bordeaux 2 (Planus 52, Rolan 63)
Toulouse 1 (Pesic 68) Att: 16,618

Marseille 2 (N'Koulou 10, Thauvin 60)
Lens 1 (Guillaume 31) Att: 52,805

Nantes 1 (Armand og 21)
Rennes 1 (Pedro Henrique 4) Att: 31,893

Friday, November 7
Rennes 1 (Pedro Henrique 89)
Lorient 0 Att: 18,390

Saturday, November 8
Bastia 2 (Tallo 21, 45+1)
Montpellier 0 Att: 11,557

Caen 1 (Duhamel 24)
Nantes 2 (Vizcarrondo 40, Veretout 60) Att: 17,900

Evian TG 1 (Wass 76)
Nice 0 Att: 7,738

Lens 1 (Touzghar pen 74)
Bordeaux 2 (Khazri 24, Diabate 41) Att: 11,037

Toulouse 3 (Sirieix 3, Ben Yedder 61, Pesic 72)
Metz 0 Att: 16,412

Sunday, November 9
Lyon 3 (Lacazette 8, Fekir 20, 87)
Guingamp 1 (Lopes og 45) Att: 36,461

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Lucas Moura 38, Cavani 85)
Marseille 0 Att: 45,961

Reims 2 (Moukandjo pen 26, Mandi 33)
Lille 0 Att: 13,004

Saint-Etienne 1 (Van Wolfswinkel 58)
Monaco 1 (Traore 17) Att: 29,403

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	13	9	1	3	27	12	28
PSG	13	7	6	0	25	8	27
Lyon	13	8	2	3	27	11	26
Bordeaux	13	7	3	3	20	15	24
Nantes	13	6	5	2	13	9	23
Saint-Etienne	13	6	4	3	13	12	22
Rennes	13	5	4	4	15	14	19
Monaco	13	5	4	4	15	14	19
Metz	13	5	3	5	13	15	18
Reims	13	5	3	5	14	21	18
Toulouse	13	5	2	6	17	17	17
Nice	13	5	2	6	17	19	17
Montpellier	13	5	2	6	11	13	17
Lille	13	4	4	5	9	12	16
Bastia	13	3	4	6	11	17	13
Evian TG	13	4	1	8	12	22	13
Caen	13	3	3	7	15	17	12
Guingamp	13	4	0	9	10	24	12
Lens	13	3	2	8	12	17	11
Lorient	13	3	1	9	10	17	10

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers
11 Alexandre Lacazette (Lyon)
10 Andre-Pierre Gignac (Marseille)
7 Wissam Ben Yedder (Toulouse)

GERMANY

Friday, October 24
Werder Bremen 0
Cologne 1 (Ujah 59) Att: 42,100

Saturday, October 25
Augsburg 2 (Verhaegh pen 11, Altintop 66)
Freiburg 0 Att: 28,324

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Calhanoglu 53)
Schalke 0 Att: 30,210

Borussia Dortmund 0
Hanover 1 (Kiyotake 62) Att: 80,667

Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Madlung 21, 65, Meier 57, Aigner 61)
Stuttgart 5 (Harnik 34, 36, Gentner 51, 84, Werner 81) Att: 49,700

Hertha Berlin 3 (Ben-Hatira 59, 85, Heitinga 65)
Hamburg 0 Att: 58,768

Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 73)
Paderborn 0 Att: 25,712

Sunday, October 26
Monchengladbach 0
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 54,010

Wolfsburg 3 (Naldo 15, Perisic 59, Caligiuri 87)
Mainz 0 Att: 26,238

Friday, October 31
Schalke 1 (Huntelaar 37)
Augsburg 0 Att: 60,954

Saturday, November 1
Bayern Munich 2 (Lewandowski 72, Robben pen 85)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Reus 31) Att: 71,000

Hamburg 1 (Van der Vaart pen 26)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 52,990

Hanover 1 (Madlung og 88)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 42,200

Mainz 1 (Okazaki 3)
Werder Bremen 2 (Di Santo 45, 49) Att: 31,017

Stuttgart 0
Wolfsburg 4 (Perisic 15, 88, Knoche 45+1, De Bruyne 48) Att: 50,050

Sunday, November 2
Cologne 0
Freiburg 1 (Darida pen 51) Att: 49,500

Monchengladbach 3 (Hahn 12, Herrmann 32, 52)
Hoffenheim 1 (Modeste 30) Att: 52,409

Paderborn 3 (Bakalorz 28, Kachunga 52, Meha 75)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou 41) Att: 14,630

Friday, November 7
Hertha Berlin 0
Hanover 2 (Briand 44, Kiyotake 76) Att: 39,710

Saturday, November 8
Augsburg 3 (Werner 7, 47, Callsen-Bracker 68)
Paderborn 0 Att: 27,755

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Mainz 0 Att: 29,714

LITHUANIA

Second double

Zalgiris won the double for a second season, adding the league – won with five games to spare – to the Cup they won in May.

NORWAY

Player found dead

Thomas Morgan, a 23-year-old midfielder with second division side Gjovik-Lyn, was found dead in the Hunnselva river, just north of Oslo after a night out.

Morgan had joined the club in January.

ROMANIA

Lengthy bans

Alin Seroni, a 28-year-old centre-back with Viitorul Constanta, was banned for 16 games following a wreckless challenge on Universitatea Craiova's Nicusor Bancu during a Romanian Cup game.

The defender's lengthy punishment came just 24 hours after Gabriel Muresan, a midfielder with Targu Mures, received the same suspension for fracturing the eye socket of Steaua Bucharest striker Raul Rusescu with an elbow.

Banned...Muresan

RUSSIA

Racist coach under fire

Players with last season's Russian Cup winners Rostov called for their own coach to be sacked after he made racist comments.

When asked about the potential signing of a player from Cameroon, Igor Gamula is reported to have claimed the team had "enough dark-skinned

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Bayern Munich 4 (Muller 23, 64, 67, Shaqiri 86)
Att: 51,500

Freiburg 2 (Gunter 22, Schmid 68)
Schalke 0 Att: 24,000

Hoffenheim 3 (Szalai 2, Roberto Firmino 39, 45)
Cologne 4 (Olkowski 5, 83, Lehmann 12, Ujah 35)
Att: 30,150

Werder Bremen 2 (Prodl 30, Bartels 57)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 40,284

Sunday, November 9

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Kramer og 58)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 80,667

Wolfsburg 2 (Olic 27, Hunt 64)
Hamburg 0 Att: 30,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	11	8	3	0	27	3	27
Wolfsburg	11	7	2	2	22	9	23
M'gladbach	11	5	5	1	15	6	20
Hanover	11	6	1	4	9	11	19
Hoffenheim	11	4	5	2	17	14	17
Leverkusen	11	4	5	2	17	15	17
Augsburg	11	5	0	6	14	12	15
Mainz	11	3	6	2	13	12	15
Paderborn	11	4	3	4	16	16	15
Cologne	11	4	3	4	11	11	15
Schalke	11	4	2	5	14	15	14
Frankfurt	11	3	3	5	17	23	12
Freiburg	11	2	5	4	11	14	11
Hertha	11	3	2	6	15	21	11
Dortmund	11	3	1	7	12	17	10
Werder	11	2	4	5	14	24	10
Hamburg	11	2	3	6	4	14	9
Stuttgart	11	2	3	6	14	25	9

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

Leading goalscorers

6 Franco Di Santo (Werder Bremen)
Mario Gotze (Bayern Munich)
Alexander Meier (Eintracht Frankfurt)
Thomas Muller (Bayern Munich)
Shinji Okazaki (Mainz)

GREECE

Oct 25: Giannina 0 Kalloni 0; Levadiakos 1 Panionios 0; Atromitos 1 Ergotelis 1.
Oct 26: OFI 2 Asteras 3; PAOK 4 Veria 1; Kerkyra 1 Platanias 2; Panetolikos 3 Panthrakikos 1; Olympiakos 1 Panathinaikos 0.
Oct 27: Xanthi 2 Niki 0.
Nov 1: Platanias 0 Giannina 0; Veria 2 Panionios 2; Asteras 0 Olympiakos 0.
Nov 2: Ergotelis 0 PAOK 2; Panathinaikos 2 Atromitos 0; Niki 0 Kerkyra 0; Panthrakikos 0 OFI 0; Panetolikos 5 Xanthi 2.
Nov 3: Kalloni 0 Levadiakos 0.
Nov 8: Ergotelis 2 Veria 2; Kerkyra 1 Panetolikos 2; Xanthi 2 OFI 1.
Nov 9: Panionios 0 Kalloni 2; Levadiakos 0 Platanias 0; Giannina 4 Niki 0; Olympiakos 5 Panthrakikos 1; PAOK 1 Panathinaikos 2.
Nov 10: Atromitos 4 Asteras 3.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK	9	7	1	1	22	5	22
Olympiakos	9	6	2	1	19	6	20
Kalloni	9	5	3	1	9	2	18
Veria	9	5	2	2	15	15	17
Panathinaikos	9	5	1	3	12	9	16
Atromitos	9	4	2	3	9	9	14
Asteras	9	4	2	3	13	13	14
Panetolikos	9	3	4	2	13	9	13
Giannina	9	3	4	2	11	8	13
Xanthi	9	3	3	3	13	13	12
Platanias	9	3	2	4	8	10	11
Kerkyra	9	3	2	4	10	10	11
OFI	9	3	1	5	7	14	10
Panionios	9	2	2	5	8	12	8
Levadiakos	9	1	4	4	7	11	7
Ergotelis	9	1	3	5	11	17	6
Panthrakikos	9	1	3	5	6	15	6
Niki	9	1	1	7	3	18	4

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

HOLLAND

Oct 24: Den Haag 2 Dordrecht 0.
Oct 25: Vitesse 2 NAC 2; Heracles 1 Willem II 3; AZ 2 Groningen 2; Ajax 3 Go Ahead Eagles 1.
Oct 26: Cambuur 0 Feyenoord 1; Utrecht 1 PSV 5; Zwolle 2 Heerenveen 2; Excelsior 2 Twente 1.
Nov 1: Ajax 4 Dordrecht 0; Feyenoord 2 Zwolle 0; Twente 2 Heerenveen 0; PSV 1 Den Haag 0.
Nov 2: Utrecht 3 Vitesse 1; Go Ahead Eagles 1 Heracles 3; Willem II 1 Cambuur 1; AZ 3 Excelsior 3; Groningen 1 NAC 0.
Nov 7: Excelsior 2 Utrecht 2.
Nov 8: Den Haag 3 Willem II 2; Heerenveen 2 Go Ahead Eagles 2; Zwolle 2 Groningen 0; NAC 0 AZ 1.
Nov 9: Cambuur 2 Ajax 4; Dordrecht 0 Twente 4; Vitesse 0 Feyenoord 0; Heracles 1 PSV 2.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	12	10	0	2	33	9	30
Ajax	12	8	2	2	28	14	26
Twente	12	5	6	1	23	12	21
Feyenoord	12	6	3	3	17	7	21
Zwolle	12	6	2	4	20	16	20
AZ	12	5	3	4	19	20	18
Heerenveen	12	4	5	3	17	15	17
Cambuur	12	4	5	3	20	19	17
Utrecht	12	5	2	5	18	22	17
Groningen	12	5	2	5	13	19	17
Vitesse	12	4	4	4	27	21	16
Willem II	12	5	1	6	18	19	16
Excelsior	12	3	6	3	18	21	15
Den Haag	12	3	4	5	17	20	13
Go Ahead	12	3	3	6	17	25	12
NAC	12	2	4	6	14	27	10
Heracles	12	2	0	10	18	29	6
Dordrecht	12	1	2	9	9	31	5

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ITALY

Saturday, October 25

Empoli 0
Cagliari 4 (Sau 31, Avelar 37, pen 38, Ekdal 45+1)
Att: 8,121

Parma 1 (Cassano 78)
Sassuolo 3 (Floccari 20, Acerbi 24, Taider 52)
Att: 11,313

Sampdoria 0
Roma 0 Att: 23,548

Sunday, October 26

Cesena 0
Internazionale 1 (Icardi pen 32) Att: 22,917

Chievo 1 (Zukanovic 36)
Genoa 2 (Matri 72, Pinilla 84) Att: 10,000

Juventus 2 (Vidal 32, Llorente 64)
Palermo 0 Att: 38,891

Lazio 2 (Biglia 15, Klose 60)
Torino 1 (Farnerud 53) Att: 34,782

Milan 1 (De Jong 25)
Fiorentina 1 (Ilicic 64) Att: 38,384

Napoli 6 (Hamsik 44, 58, Higuain 68, 84, pen 90, Callejon 76)
Verona 2 (Hallfredsson 1, Lopez 67) Att: 25,992

Udinese 2 (Di Natale 6, Thereau 36)
Atalanta 0 Att: 8,300

Tuesday, October 28

Sassuolo 3 (Missiroli 56, Floccari 61, Berardi 73)
Empoli 1 (Croce 18) Att: 10,710

Wednesday, October 29

Atalanta 1 (Denis 57)
Napoli 1 (Higuain 86) Att: 14,882

Cagliari 1 (Ibarbo 24)
Milan 1 (Bonaventura 34) Att: 16,000

Fiorentina 3 (Babacar 44, 70, Borja Valero 81)
Udinese 0 Att: 27,016

Genoa 1 (Antonini 90+4)
Juventus 0 Att: 21,971

Internazionale 1 (Icardi pen 90)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 28,057

Palermo 1 (Rigoni 81)
Chievo 0 Att: 13,985

Roma 2 (Destro 9, De Rossi 81)
Cesena 0 Att: 34,044

Torino 1 (Darmian 10)
Parma 0 Att: 12,648

Thursday, October 30

Verona 1 (Toni pen 69)
Lazio 1 (Lulic 43) Att: 17,760

Saturday, November 1

Empoli 0
Juventus 2 (Pirlo 61, Morata 72) Att: 14,698

Napoli 2 (Higuain 3, Callejon 85)
Roma 0 Att: 30,157

Parma 2 (De Ceglie 5, 76)
Internazionale 0 Att: 13,539

Sunday, November 2

Chievo 0
Sassuolo 0 Att: 5,000

Milan 0
Palermo 2 (Zapata og 23, Dybala 26) Att: 28,272

Sampdoria 3 (Palombo pen 27, Rizzo 43, Eder 78)
Fiorentina 1 (Savic 45) Att: 20,822

Torino 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 13,489

Udinese 2 (Di Natale 1, Widmer 41)
Genoa 4 (Marchese 22, Iago Falque 24, Matri 54, Kucka 87) Att: 8,701

Monday, November 3

Cesena 1 (Defrel 22)
Verona 1 (Taleb 77) Att: 15,375

Lazio 4 (Mauri 7, Klose 25, 26, Ederson 90+2)
Cagliari 2 (Braafheid og 48, Joao Pedro 84)
Att: 32,569

Saturday, November 8

Sampdoria 2 (Okaka Chuka 45+1, Eder 51)
Milan 2 (El Shaarawy 10, Menez pen 65)
Att: 23,893

Sassuolo 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 10,776

Sunday, November 9

Cagliari 1 (Farias 16)
Genoa 1 (Rossettini og 53) Att: 8,000

Chievo 2 (Pellissier 48, 90)
Cesena 1 (Djuric 88) Att: 5,000

Empoli 2 (Barba 52, Maccarone 55)
Lazio 1 (Djordjevic 67) Att: 8,153

Fiorentina 0
Napoli 1 (Higuain 62) Att: 31,987

Internazionale 2 (Icardi 18, 48)
Verona 2 (Toni 10, Lopez 89) Att: 27,314

Juventus 7 (Llorente 23, 36, Lichtsteiner 29, Tevez 50, 58, Morata 76, 88)
Parma 0 Att: 38,816

Palermo 1 (Dybala pen 42)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 5) Att: 15,658

Roma 3 (Torosidis 8, Keita 27, Ljajic 58)
Torino 0 Att: 35,770

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	11	9	1	1	25	4	28
Roma	11	8	1	2	19	6	25
Napoli	11	6	3	2	20	12	21
Sampdoria	11	5	5	1	14	8	20
Lazio	11	6	1	4	21	13	19
Genoa	11	5	4	2	15	11	19
Milan	11	4	5	2	20	16	17
Udinese	11	5	2	4	14	14	17
Internazionale	11	4	4	3	17	14	16
Verona	11	3	5	3	13	18	14
Fiorentina	11	3	4	4	10	10	13
Palermo	11	3	4	4	12	18	13
Sassuolo	11	2	6	3	10	15	12
Torino	11	3	3	5	7	12	12
Cagliari	11	2	4	5	17	17	10
Empoli	11	2	4	5	12	19	10
Atalanta	11	2	4	5	4	11	10
Chievo	11	2	2	7	8	16	8
Cesena	11	1	4	6	8	18	7
Parma	11	2	0	9	14	28	6

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers

8 Jose Callejon (Napoli)
Carlos Tevez (Juventus)
7 Mauro Icardi (Internazionale)

players, we've got six of the things".

Siyanda Xulu, who is one of five Africans in the Rostov squad, was among those demanding action. The South Africa international's agent said the player would "not to train under this current coach" until the matter was resolved.

The Russian Football Union banned Gamula for five games.

SCOTLAND

Old Firm clash

Glasgow rivals Celtic and Rangers will meet for the first time since 2012 after being drawn together in the semi-finals of the Scottish League Cup.

The pair will meet in the new year, with the holders Aberdeen facing Dundee United in the other semi-final.

Celebration...Malmo

SWEDEN

Back-to-back success

Malmo became the first side to win back-to-back Swedish titles for over a decade, winning the league championship for a record-extending 21st time.

They finished six points clear of Gothenburg, who sacked their coach Mikael Stahre at the end of the season. Gothenburg will join third-place AIK in the Europa League next season.

Henrik Larsson quit after leading Falkenberg to safety in what the club described as their "most successful season ever". Relegated Brommapojkarna and Mjallby will be replaced by Hammarby and Sundsvall next term. Gefle preserved their top-flight status with a 4-1 aggregate victory over Ljungskile.

KAZAKHSTAN

Division split after 22-round regular season; teams carried forward half the points (rounded up) gained in regular season and all the rest of regular-season record

KAZAKHSTAN – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Astana (C)	32	18	10	4	63	26	45
Aktobe	32	17	10	5	54	31	40
Kairat	32	18	5	9	58	33	38
Ordabasy	32	13	5	14	34	44	27
Kaisar	32	10	13	9	30	34	27
Shakhter	32	11	6	15	41	49	21

KAZAKHSTAN – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tobol	32	10	12	10	35	35	26
Zhetysu	32	10	8	14	21	31	25
Atyrau	32	10	7	15	30	43	25
Irtysh	32	9	10	13	39	44	25
Taraz[1]	32	9	7	16	32	45	25
Spartak (R)	32	7	7	18	30	52	21

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

LATVIA

LATVIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ventspils (C)	36	26	5	5	75	20	83
Skonto[1]	36	25	1	10	77	34	71
Jelgava	36	20	10	6	57	27	70
Liepaja	36	21	3	12	72	45	66
Daugava D	36	19	8	9	53	39	65
Spartaks	36	14	9	13	38	32	51
Daugava R	36	13	4	19	48	64	43
BFC Dau'pils	36	8	5	23	30	65	29
Metta/LU[2]	36	3	7	26	26	69	16
Jurmala[1] (R)	36	2	6	28	29	110	7

[1]5pts deducted
[2]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

NORWAY

Oct 24: Valerenga 1 Odd 2.
Oct 25: Haugesund 3 Stromsgodset 2.
Oct 26: Rosenborg 3 Sandnes Ulf 1; Sarpsborg 1 Stabaek 1; Viking 1 Aalesund 2; Sogndal 0 Molde 1; Lillestrom 4 Start 1; Bodo/Glimt 2 Brann 1.
Nov 2: Brann 2 Sogndal 1; Lillestrom 4 Bodo/Glimt 0; Stabaek 0 Haugesund 1; Aalesund 4 Valerenga 1; Stromsgodset 2 Molde 0; Odd 0 Rosenborg 1; Viking 1 Sarpsborg 0; Start 3 Sandnes Ulf 3.
Nov 9: Haugesund 2 Brann 3; Bodo/Glimt 3 Viking 2; Sandnes Ulf 1 Aalesund 2; Molde 2 Odd 0; Rosenborg 4 Stromsgodset 1; Valerenga 1 Start 0; Sogndal 0 Stabaek 2; Sarpsborg 3 Lillestrom 2.

NORWAY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Molde (C)	30	22	5	3	62	24	71
Rosenborg	30	18	6	6	64	43	60
Odd	30	17	7	6	52	32	58
Stromsgodset	30	15	5	10	48	42	50
Lillestrom	30	13	7	10	49	35	46
Valerenga	30	11	9	10	59	53	42
Aalesund	30	11	8	11	40	39	41
Sarpsborg	30	10	10	10	41	48	40
Stabaek	30	11	6	13	44	52	39
Viking	30	8	12	10	42	42	36
Haugesund	30	10	6	14	43	49	36
Start	30	10	5	15	47	60	35
Bodo/Glimt	30	10	5	15	45	60	35
Brann[1]	30	8	5	17	41	54	29
Sogndal (R)	30	6	6	18	31	49	24
Sandnes Ulf (R)	30	4	10	16	27	53	22

[1]Enter rel/prom play-off

Top goalscorers

25 Vidar Kjartansson (Valerenga)
15 Christian Gytkjaer (Haugesund)

POLAND

Regular season

Oct 24: Belchatow 1 Gornik Zabrze 0; Wisla 3 Podbeskidzie 2.
Oct 25: Piast 0 Jagiellonia 2; Lechia 1 Slask 4; Pogon 2 Cracovia 1.
Oct 26: Lech 1 Gornik Leczna 0; Zawisza 1 Legia 2.
Oct 27: Ruch 0 Korona 1.
Oct 31: Gornik Leczna 1 Lechia 1; Korona 3 Wisla 2.
Nov 2: Gornik Zabrze 1 Pogon 1; Cracovia 1 Zawisza 0; Slask 1 Lech 1; Legia 2 Ruch 1.
Nov 3: Podbeskidzie 2 Piast 4; Jagiellonia 0 Belchatow 1.
Nov 7: Piast 0 Gornik Leczna 0; Lech 1 Podbeskidzie 1.
Nov 8: Lechia 1 Korona 2; Belchatow 1 Cracovia 1; Wisla 1 Slask 1.
Nov 9: Zawisza 1 Gornik Zabrze 2; Ruch 5 Jagiellonia 2; Pogon 2 Legia 1.

POLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia	15	9	2	4	31	17	29
Slask	15	8	4	3	27	18	28
Jagiellonia	15	8	2	5	27	21	26
Belchatow	15	7	5	3	14	12	26
Wisla	15	7	4	4	29	21	25
Gornik Zabrze	15	7	4	4	23	17	25
Lech	15	5	8	2	29	16	23
Pogon	15	6	5	4	22	23	23
Piast	15	5	4	6	18	21	19
Podbeskidzie	15	5	3	7	24	27	18
Cracovia	15	5	3	7	15	21	18
Lechia	15	4	5	6	20	23	17
Gornik Leczna	15	4	5	6	17	21	17
Korona	15	5	2	8	14	24	17
Ruch	15	2	5	8	16	23	11
Zawisza	15	2	1	12	16	37	7

30-round regular season (15x2); top 8 will form championship group, bottom 8 will form relegation group (from which the bottom 2 will go down)

Leading goalscorers

12 Flavio Paixao (Slask)
10 Mateusz Piatkowski (Jagiellonia)
8 Pawel Brozek (Wisla)

PORTUGAL

Oct 24: Setubal 0 Guimaraes 1.
Oct 25: Boavista 1 Pacos de Ferreira 2; Moreirense 2 Gil Vicente 0; Arouca 0 Porto 5.
Oct 26: Nacional 1 Academica 0; Estoril 1 Belenenses 2; Sporting 4 Maritimo 2; Braga 2 Benfica 1.
Oct 27: Rio Ave 3 Penafiel 2.
Oct 31: Benfica 1 Rio Ave 0.
Nov 1: Penafiel 1 Estoril 2; Guimaraes 3 Sporting 0; Porto 2 Nacional 0.
Nov 2: Pacos de Ferreira 4 Setubal 1; Maritimo 1 Moreirense 2; Gil Vicente 1 Arouca 1; Academica 1 Braga 1.
Nov 3: Belenenses 3 Boavista 1.
Nov 7: Arouca 1 Guimaraes 2.
Nov 8: Braga 2 Gil Vicente 0.
Nov 9: Nacional 1 Benfica 2; Boavista 1 Penafiel 0; Moreirense 0 Belenenses 1; Setubal 1 Maritimo 0; Sporting 1 Pacos de Ferreira 1; Estoril 2 Porto 2.
Nov 10: Rio Ave 3 Academica 0.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	10	8	1	1	23	7	25
Guimaraes	10	7	2	1	20	8	23
Porto	10	6	4	0	19	5	22
Belenenses	10	6	2	2	15	11	20
Braga	10	5	3	2	15	7	18
Pacos Ferreira	10	5	3	2	15	10	18
Rio Ave	10	5	2	3	19	10	17
Sporting	10	4	5	1	18	10	17
Moreirense	10	3	4	3	7	9	13
Maritimo	10	4	0	6	15	15	12
Setubal	10	3	2	5	8	16	11
Estoril	10	2	4	4	15	20	10
Boavista	10	3	1	6	7	18	10
Academica	10	1	5	4	7	12	8
Nacional	10	2	2	6	7	13	8
Arouca	10	2	2	6	6	18	8
Penafiel	10	1	1	8	6	19	4
Gil Vicente	10	0	3	7	7	21	3

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers

8 Talisca (Benfica)
7 Deyverson (Belenenses)
7 Moussa Maazou (Maritimo)
7 Jackson Martinez (Porto)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Oct 24: Athlone 1 Bray 1; Bohemians 2 Derry 1; Dundalk 2 Cork 0; Shamrock 1 Limerick 0; Sligo 1 St Patrick's 4; UCD 1 Drogheda 0.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundalk (C)	33	22	8	3	73	24	74
Cork	33	22	6	5	51	25	72
St Patrick's	33	19	8	6	66	37	65
Shamrock	33	18	8	7	43	26	62
Sligo	33	12	7	14	44	36	43
Limerick	33	12	5	16	37	45	41
Bohemians	33	9	13	11	42	43	40
Derry	33	9	11	13	42	41	38
Drogheda	33	10	6	17	40	63	36
Bray	33	5	11	17	28	61	26
UCD (R)[1]	33	6	7	20	27	71	25
Athlone (R)	33	4	10	19	35	56	22

[1]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

ROMANIA

Oct 24: Otelul 1 Gaz Metan 1; Brasov 2 CS Universitatea 3.
Oct 25: Ceahlaul 2 CSM Studentesc 2; Universitatea Cluj 2 Viitorul 2; Botosani 3 Rapid 0.
Oct 26: Concordia 1 CFR 1; Dinamo 3 Pandurii 2; Targu Mures 1 Steaua 0.
Oct 27: Astra 0 Petrolul 0.
Oct 31: Steaua 3 Dinamo 0.
Nov 1: Gaz Metan 1 Universitatea Cluj 1; CS Universitatea 2 Botosani 1; Astra 2 Ceahlaul 1.
Nov 3: Viitorul 0 Targu Mures 0; Petrolul 0 Otelul 0; CFR 1 Brasov 2.
Nov 4: Pandurii 1 Concordia 1; Rapid 0 CSM Studentesc 1.
Nov 7: Targu Mures 2 Gaz Metan 0; Dinamo 2 Viitorul 3.
Nov 8: Brasov 0 Pandurii 3; Botosani 0 CFR 1; Universitatea Cluj 0 Petrolul 3.
Nov 9: CSM Studentesc 1 CS Universitatea 3; Otelul 1 Astra 1; Concordia 0 Steaua 1.
Nov 10: Rapid 1 Ceahlaul 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	14	11	1	2	31	8	34
CFR	14	9	2	3	23	10	29
Petrolul	14	8	4	2	25	9	28
Targu Mures	14	7	5	2	19	9	26
Astra	14	7	4	3	23	11	25
Dinamo	14	6	4	4	24	19	22
CS Univ'tatea	14	6	4	4	18	20	22
Botosani	14	6	3	5	18	19	21
Brasov	14	5	4	5	18	21	19
Viitorul	14	4	5	5	17	18	17
Pandurii	14	3	6	5	17	19	15
Gaz Metan	14	3	6	5	15	19	15
Ceahlaul	14	3	5	6	14	23	14
Univ Cluj	14	3	4	7	14	20	13
Concordia	14	2	6	6	11	21	12
Rapid	14	2	4	8	7	20	10
CSM Stud'tesc	14	1	6	7	11	23	9
Otelul	14	1	5	8	6	22	8

34-round season (17x2); bottom 6 will be relegated

RUSSIA

Oct 24: Ural 1 Arsenal 0.
Oct 25: Amkar 2 Rostov 0; Torpedo 0 Kuban 0.
Oct 26: Spartak 1 Lokomotiv 1; Ufa 3 CSKA 3; Zenit 5 Mordovia 0.
Oct 27: Krasnodar 2 Terek 0; Dynamo 0 Rubin 2.
Oct 31: Rostov 1 Ural 0.
Nov 1: CSKA 0 Zenit 1.
Nov 2: Lokomotiv 4 Dynamo 2; Mordovia 2 Krasnodar 1; Kuban 3 Spartak 3.
Nov 3: Torpedo 0 Arsenal 1; Rubin 1 Amkar 1; Terek 1 Ufa 0.
Nov 7: Ural 0 Kuban 1.
Nov 8: Amkar 0 Mordovia 1; Torpedo 0 Lokomotiv 1; Zenit 1 Terek 3.
Nov 9: Dynamo 1 CSKA 0; Ufa 0 Rostov 0; Spartak 2 Arsenal 0; Krasnodar 2 Rubin 0.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	13	10	2	1	35	9	32
CSKA	13	8	1	4	29	13	25
Krasnodar	13	7	3	3	22	10	24
Terek	13	7	3	3	18	9	24
Kuban	13	6	6	1	16	15	24
Dynamo	12	7	1	4	26	18	22
Lokomotiv	13	6	4	3	18	12	22
Spartak	13	6	4	3	19	16	22
Rubin	13	5	5	3	18	15	20
Mordovia	13	5	2	6	10	20	17
Ufa	13	3	4	6	11	14	13
Amkar	12	3	2	7	10	17	11
Ural	13	3	1	9	12	19	10
Rostov	13	2	3	8	12	32	9
Torpedo	13	1	3	9	9	28	6
Arsenal	13	1	2	10	4	22	5

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

SCOTLAND

Regular season

Oct 24: Aberdeen 1 Motherwell 0.
Oct 25: Inverness 1 Dundee United 0; Dundee 2 Hamilton 0; St Mirren 2 Ross County 2; Partick 0 St Johnstone 0.
Oct 26: Celtic 2 Kilmarnock 0.
Oct 31: St Johnstone 2 Motherwell 1.
Nov 1: Kilmarnock 1 Dundee 3; Celtic 1 Inverness 0; Hamilton 3 Partick 3; Dundee United 3 St Mirren 0.
Nov 3: Ross County 0 Aberdeen 1.
Nov 7: Motherwell 1 Dundee United 0.

MEXICO

Santos Cup win

Santos Laguna have won the Copa MX for the first time and – as apertura champions – they will now face the winner's of next year's clausura Copa MX for a place in the 2016 Libertadores Cup. Santos lifted the cup after beating Puebla on penalties, following a 2-2 draw.

USA

End of Chivas

After beating San Jose Earthquakes 1-0 on the final day of the MLS regular season, Chivas USA folded.

The club, which began as an attempt to attract fans of popular Mexican side Guadalajara 10 years ago, becomes the third MLS franchise to close, after Miami Fusion and Tampa Bay Mutiny in 2001.

With Chivas USA disappearing just as Orlando City and New York City are set to join the league, the Eastern and Western Conferences have been realigned and will have 10 teams each next year, with Sporting Kansas City and Houston Dynamo moving to the West. A new Los Angeles club will also enter the league in 2017.

Over...Chivas' Leandro Barrera

NIGERIA

Pillars join trio club

Kano Pillars became only the third club to win the league title for a third consecutive season. They follow in the footsteps of Heartland (four times, as Iwuanyanwu Nationale, from 1987-90) and Enyimba (2001-03). They claimed the title with a 4-0 win over relegated Nembe City.

Nov 8: Inverness 4 Hamilton 2; St Mirren 0 Partick 1; Kilmarnock 0 Ross Cty 3; Dundee 1 St Johnstone 1.
Nov 9: Aberdeen 1 Celtic 2.

SCOTLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	12	8	2	2	25	8	26
Inverness	13	8	2	3	19	11	26
Dundee Utd	13	8	1	4	22	14	25
Hamilton	13	7	3	3	24	14	24
Aberdeen	13	7	1	5	19	17	22
Dundee	13	5	5	3	18	15	20
Kilmarnock	13	6	2	5	15	16	20
Partick	12	4	3	5	17	16	15
St Johnstone	13	4	2	7	10	16	14
Motherwell	13	3	1	9	8	21	10
St Mirren	13	2	2	9	10	22	8
Ross County	13	2	2	9	12	29	8

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down and the 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs)

SPAIN

Friday, October 24

Celta Vigo 3 (Larrivey 27, 83, Alex Lopez 90)
Levante 0 Att: 19,231

Saturday, October 25

Almeria 0
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Etxeita 56) Att: 12,000

Cordoba 1 (Xisco 87)
Real Sociedad 1 (Inigo Martinez 22) Att: 15,712

Eibar 1 (Boveda 37)
Granada 1 (Nyom 8) Att: 4,838

Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 35, Pepe 50, Benzema 61)
Barcelona 1 (Neymar 4) Att: 85,450

Valencia 3 (Mustafi 13, Parejo 18, Lomban og 64)
Elche 1 (Jonathas 90+2) Att: 37,500

Sunday, October 26

Espanyol 0
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 21,800

Getafe 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Mandzukic 40) Att: 9,300

Malaga 4 (Samuel 6, Darder 21, Juanmi 45, Amrabat pen 49)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 21,800

Sevilla 2 (Denis Suarez 88, Bacca pen 90+3)
Villarreal 1 (Vietto 79) Att: 34,500

Friday, October 31

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Helder Postiga 80)
Getafe 2 (Fabricio og 35, Lafita 46) Att: 20,150

Saturday, November 1

Atletico Madrid 4 (Griezmann 43, 58, Mandzukic 62, Raul Garcia 80)
Cordoba 2 (Ghilas 53, 87) Att: 48,600

Barcelona 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Larrivey 55) Att: 71,468

Granada 0
Real Madrid 4 (Cristiano Ronaldo 2, Rodriguez 31, 87, Benzema 54) Att: 21,800

Real Sociedad 0
Malaga 1 (Juanmi 72) Att: 21,086

Sunday, November 2

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Aduriz 13)
Sevilla 0 Att: 42,000

Elche 2 (Jonathas 19, 52)
Espanyol 1 (Stuani pen 86) Att: 21,471

Levante 2 (David Barral 26, Victor 75)
Almeria 1 (Zongo 70) Att: 16,000

Villarreal 1 (Manu Trigueros 88)
Valencia 3 (Manu Trigueros og 6, Mustafi 64, 73) Att: 23,000

Monday, November 3

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Leo Baptistao 67, 68)
Eibar 3 (Arruabarrena pen 38, 86, Piovaccari 49) Att: 10,625

Friday, November 7

Cordoba 0
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 15,643

Saturday, November 8

Almeria 1 (Bifouma 37)
Barcelona 2 (Neymar 73, Jordi Alba 82) Att: 12,606

Celta Vigo 0
Granada 0 Att: 20,000

Getafe 0
Elche 0 Att: 6,000

Malaga 2 (Juanmi 53, Amrabat pen 89)
Eibar 1 (Arruabarrena 42) Att: 22,600

Real Madrid 5 (Bale 9, Sergio Ramos 40, Kroos 55, Benzema 59, Cristiano Ronaldo 83)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bueno 44) Att: 76,842

Sunday, November 9

Espanyol 1 (Colotto 90)
Villarreal 1 (Mario 26) Att: 22,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Vela 15, Agirretxe 82)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Mandzukic 10) Att: 22,768

Sevilla 1 (Vitolo 31)
Levante 1 (Victor 80) Att: 28,500

Valencia 0
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 39,600

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	11	9	0	2	42	11	27
Barcelona	11	8	1	2	25	5	25
Valencia	11	7	3	1	23	9	24
Atletico	11	7	2	2	20	11	23
Sevilla	11	7	2	2	18	11	23
Malaga	11	6	3	2	14	9	21
Celta	11	5	5	1	17	11	20
Villarreal	11	4	3	4	15	13	15
Getafe	11	4	2	5	8	14	14
Eibar	11	3	4	4	13	15	13
Athletic	11	3	3	5	7	12	12
Espanyol	11	2	5	4	11	13	11
Rayo	11	3	2	6	14	24	11
Granada	11	2	4	5	6	17	10
Real Sociedad	11	2	3	6	12	16	9
Almeria	11	2	3	6	9	14	9
Deportivo	11	2	3	6	12	21	9
Elche	11	2	3	6	10	22	9
Levante	11	2	3	6	7	25	9
Cordoba	11	0	6	5	8	18	6

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading goalscorers

18 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
10 Neymar (Barcelona)
7 Carlos Bacca (Sevilla)
Joaquin Larrivey (Celta Vigo)
Lionel Messi (Barcelona)

SWEDEN

Oct 25: Hacken 3 Gefle 1.
Oct 26: Norrkoping 2 Orebro 0; AIK 4 Atvidaberg 1; Elfsborg 0 Djurgarden 1; Halmstad 4 Falkenberg 0.
Oct 27: Malmo 2 Brommapojkarna 0; Mjallby 0 Kalmar 2; Helsingborg 0 Gothenburg 3.
Nov 1: Atvidaberg 2 Malmo 1; Brommapojkarna 0 Elfsborg 1; Kalmar 1 AIK 1; Falkenberg 1 Mjallby 1; Gothenburg 5 Halmstad 1; Gefle 2 Helsingborg 1; Orebro 5 Hacken 2; Djurgarden 1 Norrkoping 1.

SWEDEN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmo (C)	30	18	8	4	59	31	62
Gothenburg	30	15	11	4	58	34	56
AIK	30	15	7	8	59	42	52
Elfsborg	30	15	7	8	40	31	52
Hacken	30	13	7	10	58	45	46
Orebro	30	13	7	10	54	44	46
Djurgarden	30	11	10	9	47	33	43
Atvidaberg	30	12	7	11	39	46	43
Helsingborg	30	10	9	11	41	44	39
Halmstad	30	11	6	13	44	50	39
Kalmar	30	10	9	11	36	45	39
Norrkoping	30	9	9	12	39	50	36
Falkenberg	30	9	6	15	37	49	33
Gefle[1]	30	8	8	14	34	42	32
Mjallby (R)	30	8	5	17	29	47	29
Bro'karna (R)	30	2	6	22	28	69	12

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

SWITZERLAND

Oct 25: Thun 0 Aarau 0; Basle 1 Sion 1.
Oct 26: Zurich 1 St Gallen 1; Vaduz 1 Grasshopper 1.
Nov 1: Zurich 2 Lucerne 3; Basle 2 Grasshopper 0.
Nov 2: Young Boys 0 Vaduz 1; Sion 2 Aarau 2; St Gallen 1 Thun 0.
Nov 8: Lucerne 0 Thun 0; Grasshopper 3 St Gallen 0.
Nov 9: Aarau 0 Zurich 1; Vaduz 0 Basle 4; Young Boys 2 Sion 1.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	15	10	2	3	32	17	32
Zurich	15	9	3	3	28	16	30
St Gallen	15	7	4	4	23	19	25
Thun	15	6	5	4	21	18	23
Young Boys	14	6	3	5	22	18	21
Aarau	15	3	7	5	16	20	16
Grasshopper	15	4	3	8	17	25	15
Sion	15	3	5	7	14	19	14
Vaduz	15	3	5	7	10	23	14
Lucerne	14	1	7	6	15	23	10

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

TURKEY

Oct 24: Karabukspor 2 Akhisar 1; Kasimpasa 2 Konyaspor 0.
Oct 25: Sivasspor 0 Rizespor 1; Fenerbahce 2 Genclerbirligi 1; Balikesirspor 0 Bursaspor 5.
Oct 26: Mersin 4 Eskisehirspor 2; Trabzonspor 4 Gaziantepspor 4; Basaksehir 4 Galatasaray 0.
Oct 27: Kayseri Erciyesspor 3 Besiktas 2.
Oct 31: Galatasaray 2 Kasimpasa 1.
Nov 1: Genclerbirligi 1 Basaksehir 0; Bursaspor 3 Sivasspor 0; Akhisar 1 Trabzonspor 1.
Nov 2: Rizespor 1 Kayseri Erciyesspor 1; Gaziantepspor 1 Mersin 0; Besiktas 0 Fenerbahce 2.
Nov 3: Eskisehirspor 2 Balikesirspor 2; Konyaspor 1 Karabukspor 0.
Nov 7: Sivasspor 1 Eskisehirspor 1; Gaziantepspor 1 Akhisar 0.
Nov 8: Mersin 2 Balikesirspor 1; Karabukspor 1 Galatasaray 2; Fenerbahce 2 Rizespor 1.
Nov 9: Kayseri Erciyesspor 1 Bursaspor 1; Kasimpasa 2 Genclerbirligi 2; Trabzonspor 3 Konyaspor 2; Basaksehir 1 Besiktas 2.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	9	6	1	2	13	9	19
Galatasaray	9	6	1	2	12	11	19
Besiktas	9	5	2	2	12	10	17
Mersin	9	5	1	3	15	11	16
Gaziantepspor	9	4	3	2	13	12	15
Bursaspor	9	4	2	3	15	9	14
Akhisar	9	4	2	3	12	12	14
Kasimpasa	9	3	4	2	15	13	13
Genclerbirligi	9	3	3	3	11	9	12
Trabzonspor	9	2	6	1	13	13	12
Basaksehir	9	2	5	2	11	5	11
Rizespor	9	2	4	3	9	11	10
K Erciyesspor	9	1	6	2	10	11	9
Konyaspor	9	2	3	4	8	10	9
Eskisehirspor	9	1	5	3	11	15	8
Karabukspor	9	2	1	6	9	12	7
Sivasspor	9	1	3	5	8	14	6
Balikesirspor	9	1	2	6	9	19	5

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

UKRAINE

Oct 31: Metalurh Donetsk 2 Shakhtar 1.
Nov 1: Vorskla 0 Illichivets 0; Metalurh Zaporizhya 0 Chornomorets 0.
Nov 2: Karpaty 1 Zorya 2; Metalist 0 Olimpik 0; Dnipro 0 Dynamo 3.
Nov 3: Hoverla 0 Volyn 0.
Nov 8: Hoverla 1 Metalurh Donetsk 0; Zorya 3 Metalurh Zaporizhya 0; Chornomorets 1 Vorskla 0.
Nov 9: Volyn 4 Olimpik 0; Shakhtar 0 Dnipro 0; Illichivets 1 Metalist 3; Dynamo 0 Karpaty 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	11	8	3	0	23	5	27
Dnipro	11	8	2	1	22	7	26
Shakhtar	11	7	1	3	22	7	22
Zorya	11	5	3	3	13	9	18
Metalist	11	4	4	3	15	15	16
Olimpik	11	4	3	4	8	22	15
Vorskla	11	3	5	3	11	8	14
Chornomorets	11	3	5	3	12	11	14
Volyn	11	4	2	5	16	18	14
Metalurh D	11	3	4	4	13	13	13
Metalurh Z	11	2	3	6	8	19	9
Hoverla	11	1	5	5	7	14	8
Illichivets	11	0	3	8	8	23	3
Karpaty[1]	11	2	3	6	10	17	0

26-round season (13x2); bottom team will be relegated
[1]9pts deducted for failing to comply with contract obligations

SOUTH AMERICA

SUDAMERICANA CUP

3rd round

1st legs - Sep 30-Oct 16; 2nd legs - Oct 15-23

Atletico Nacional (Col) v Vitoria (Bra)
2-2, 1-0 (agg 3-2)
Bahia (Bra) v Cesar Vallejo (Per)
2-0, 0-2 (agg 2-2, Cesar Vallejo 7-6 on pens)
Boca Juniors (Arg) v Capiata (Par)
0-1, 1-0 (agg 1-1, Boca Juniors 4-3 on pens)

SUDAN

Honours even

Al Merreikh won the Sudan Cup for a third successive season, beating Al Hilal 3-1 in the Final. Hilal won the league 11 days later with a draw at home to Merreikh.

CHINA

Lippi steps aside

Italy's 2006 World Cup-winning boss Marcello Lippi stepped aside after leading Guangzhou Evergrande to their fourth consecutive Chinese Super League title, but will carry on working for the club.

"There might be some misunderstanding about what I said before, that I would give up and ditch the team," explained the 66-year-old in reply to reports that he had retired from football management.

"No, I'm still the chief director and the head coach of the team. I'm just not going to be on the pitch every day."

Guangzhou Evergrande had to overcome a minor scare in their final league game of the campaign to secure their latest title.

Trailing to a Liu Binbin goal away to Shandong Luneng, they needed an equaliser from Elkeson just before half-time to secure the necessary point that saw them finish three points ahead of second-placed Beijing Guoan. It was Elkeson's 28th goal of the season and set a new record for a single season.

Harbin Yiteng and Dalian were relegated and will be replaced next year by Chongqing Lifan and Shijiazhuang Yongchang.

Record...Elkeson (left)

Cerro Porteno (Par) v Lanus (Arg) 2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
Emelec (Ecu) v Goias (Bra)
1-0, 0-1 (agg 1-1, Emelec 6-5 on pens)
Estudiantes (Arg) v Penarol (Uru)
2-1, 1-2 (agg 3-3, Estudiantes 3-1 on pens)
Libertad (Par) v River Plate (Arg) 1-3, 0-2 (agg 1-5)
Sao Paulo (Bra) v Huachipato (Chl)
1-0, 3-2 (agg 4-2)

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Oct 29-31; 2nd legs - Nov 6/7
Atletico Nacional v Cesar Vallejo 1-0, 1-0 (agg 2-0)
Boca Juniors v Cerro Porteno 1-0, 4-1 (agg 5-1)
Estudiantes v River Plate 1-2, 2-3 (agg 3-5)
Sao Paulo v Emelec 4-2, 2-3 (agg 6-5)

ARGENTINA

Transitional tournament

Oct 24: Belgrano 1 Rosario 0.
Oct 25: Independiente 3 Tigre 1; Velez 1 Banfield 0; Newell's 2 Godoy Cruz 2; Olimpo 1 Racing 1.
Oct 26: Estudiantes 1 Quilmes 0; Rafaela 1 River Plate 2; Lanus 1 San Lorenzo 0; Boca 2 Defensa y Justicia 0.
Oct 27: Arsenal 1 Gimnasia LP 0.
Oct 31: Banfield 3 Olimpo 0.
Nov 1: Gimnasia LP 0 Racing 1; Quilmes 2 Velez 1; Godoy Cruz 1 Belgrano 3; Rosario 0 Rafaela 2.
Nov 2: San Lorenzo 2 Boca 0.
Nov 7: Lanus 3 Arsenal 2.
Nov 8: Independiente 0 Gimnasia LP 1; Olimpo 2 Quilmes 1; Rafaela 3 Godoy Cruz 4; Belgrano 3 Defensa y Justicia 0.
Nov 9: Velez 1 River Plate 1; Estudiantes 1 Rosario 0; Racing 1 Banfield 0; Boca 2 Tigre 0.
Nov 10: Newell's 3 San Lorenzo 1.
Nov 12: River Plate 0 Estudiantes 1; Tigre 3 Lanus 0.
Nov 13: Arsenal 1 Independiente 1.
Nov 14: Def y Justicia 2 Rafaela 1; Rosario 0 Velez 0.
Nov 15: Gimnasia LP 1 Banfield 1; San Lorenzo 4 Belgrano 0; Quilmes 0 Racing 1.
Nov 16: Arsenal 1 Boca 1; Tigre 1 Newell's 2; Godoy Cruz 1 Estudiantes 1; River Plate 1 Olimpo 1.
Nov 17: Independiente 4 Lanus 1.

ARGENTINA – TRANSITIONAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	16	9	6	1	30	10	33
Racing	16	10	2	4	25	16	32
Independiente	16	9	3	4	29	22	30
Lanus	16	9	3	4	24	21	30
Boca	16	8	3	5	20	18	27
Estudiantes	16	8	3	5	19	17	27
Newell's	15	6	6	3	19	18	24
Velez	16	6	4	6	18	16	22
Rafaela	16	6	4	6	21	20	22
Tigre	16	6	2	8	23	20	20
San Lorenzo	16	6	2	8	20	20	20
Arsenal	16	5	5	6	17	20	20
Belgrano	16	5	4	7	19	24	19
Gimnasia LP	16	4	6	6	11	13	18
Godoy Cruz	16	4	6	6	27	34	18
Banfield	16	4	5	7	18	18	17
Rosario	16	5	2	9	17	22	17
Def y Justicia	15	4	3	8	18	28	15
Olimpo	16	3	5	8	11	21	14
Quilmes	16	2	6	8	16	24	12

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation at the end of this tournament

BRAZIL

Oct 21: Bahia 1 Mineiro 1.
Oct 22: Flamengo 2 Internacional 0; Corinthians 2 Vitoria 1; Cruzeiro 1 Palmeiras 1; Criciuma 0 Paranaense 1; Gremio 1 Figueirense 0; Coritiba 2 Botafogo 0; Santos 0 Fluminense 1; Chapecoense 0 Sao Paulo 0; Sport 0 Goias 1.
Oct 25: Fluminense 2 Paranaense 1; Palmeiras 1 Corinthians 1; Figueirense 1 Cruzeiro 1; Coritiba 1 Gremio 1; Mineiro 3 Sport 2; Vitoria 3 Criciuma 1; Chapecoense 1 Santos 1; Botafogo 2 Flamengo 1; Internacional 2 Bahia 0.
Oct 27: Sao Paulo 3 Goias 0.
Nov 1: Gremio 1 Vitoria 0; Goias 0 Fluminense 2; Corinthians 2 Coritiba 2.
Nov 2: Sport 1 Figueirense 0; Santos 1 Internacional 2; Cruzeiro 2 Botafogo 1; Criciuma 1 Sao Paulo 2; Flamengo 3 Chapecoense 0; Paranaense 1 Mineiro 0; Bahia 0 Palmeiras 1.
Nov 8: Palmeiras 0 Mineiro 2; Coritiba 1 Fluminense 0; Botafogo 0 Paranaense 2.
Nov 9: Sport 2 Flamengo 2; Vitoria 1 Sao Paulo 2; Gremio 4 Internacional 1; Figueirense 1 Chapecoense 0; Corinthians 1 Santos 0; Cruzeiro 3 Criciuma 1; Goias 3 Bahia 0.
Nov 12: Sao Paulo 1 Internacional 1.
Nov 15: Fluminense 1 Botafogo 0; Criciuma 0 Gremio 3.
Nov 16: Flamengo 3 Coritiba 2; Santos 0 Cruzeiro 1; Paranaense 0 Sport 1; Bahia 1 Corinthians 2; Sao Paulo 2 Palmeiras 0; Mineiro 1 Figueirense 1; Chapecoense 0 Vitoria 1; Internacional 1 Goias 0.

BRAZIL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	34	21	7	6	60	34	70
Sao Paulo	35	19	9	7	57	38	66
Internacional	35	18	6	11	46	38	60
Gremio	34	17	9	8	34	19	60
Corinthians	34	16	12	6	43	25	60
Mineiro	34	16	10	8	45	34	58
Fluminense	34	16	9	9	52	32	57
Flamengo	34	13	8	13	40	41	47
Santos	34	13	7	14	38	33	46
Paranaense	34	13	7	14	38	39	46
Goias	34	12	8	14	33	34	44
Sport	34	12	8	14	29	42	44
Figueirense	34	11	7	16	32	44	40
Palmeiras	34	11	6	17	32	51	39
Vitoria	34	10	7	17	36	46	37
Coritiba	34	9	10	15	34	41	37
Chapecoense	34	9	9	16	30	38	36
Botafogo	34	9	6	19	31	43	33
Bahia	34	7	10	17	26	38	31
Criciuma	34	7	9	18	24	50	30

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group 1

Oct 22: Real Espana (Hnd) 3 Pachuca (Mex) 2.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 1 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pachuca (Q)	4	3	0	1	17	8	9
Municipal (Gtm)	4	1	1	2	8	12	4
Real Espana	4	1	1	2	5	10	4

Group 2

Oct 23: Saprissa (CR) 2 Sporting Kansas City (USA) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 2 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saprissa (Q)	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Kansas City	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Real Esteli (Nic)	4	0	2	2	2	8	2

Group 3

Oct 22: New York Red Bulls (USA) 1 Montreal Impact (Can) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 3 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Montreal (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	3	10
New York RB	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
FAS (ESv)	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

Group 4

Oct 21: Tauro (Pan) 0 DC United (USA) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 4 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DC United (Q)	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
Water'se (Jam)	4	2	0	2	7	5	6
Tauro	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

Group 5

Oct 21: Olimpia (Hnd) 3 Portland Timbers (USA) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 5 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia (Q)	4	3	0	1	12	5	9
Portland	4	3	0	1	15	6	9
Alpha Utd (Guy)	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 6

Oct 21: Alajuelense (CR) 1 Cruz Azul (Mex) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 6 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuelense (Q)	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Cruz Azul	4	1	2	1	5	3	5
Chorrillo (Pan)	4	1	1	2	2	5	4

Group 7

Oct 23: Leon (Mex) 4 Isidro Metapan (ESv) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 7 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Her'ano (CR) (Q)	4	3	1	0	11	4	10
Leon	4	2	1	1	10	6	7
Isidro Metapan	4	0	0	4	5	16	0

Group 8

Oct 21: America (Mex) 2 Comunicaciones (Gtm) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP 8 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America (Q)	4	3	1	0	19	3	10
Comunic'nes	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Bayamon (PR)	4	0	0	4	2	23	0

● *Group winners qualified for quarter-finals*

Quarter-finals draw

Alajuelense v DC United
Olimpia v Herediano
Pachuca v Montreal Impact
Saprissa v America
1st legs - Feb 24-26; 2nd legs - Mar 3-5

MEXICO

Apertura

Regular season

Oct 24: Queretaro 3 America 2; Santos 1 Pumas 1.
Oct 25: Cruz Azul 3 Morelia 1; Veracruz 1 Chiapas 2; Monterrey 2 Tigres 2; Atlas 2 Puebla 1; Pachuca 0 Leones Negros 0.
Oct 26: Toluca 2 Leon 3; Guadalajara 3 Tijuana 3.
Oct 31: Morelia 2 Monterrey 1; Tijuana 0 Toluca 1.
Nov 1: Puebla 1 Pachuca 1; America 0 Guadalajara 0; Tigres 1 Queretaro 0; Leones Negros 1 Santos 1; Leon 4 Atlas 0; Chiapas 0 Cruz Azul 0.
Nov 2: Pumas 0 Veracruz 0.
Nov 7: Queretaro 2 Morelia 0; Santos 2 Pachuca 1.
Nov 8: Cruz Azul 0 Pumas 2; Veracruz 0 Leones Negros 1; Monterrey 1 Chiapas 2; Leon 0 Puebla 0; Atlas 1 Tijuana 1.
Nov 9: Toluca 2 America 2; Guadalajara 0 Tigres 0.
Nov 15: Monterrey 1 Guadalajara 0.

MEXICO – APERTURA: REGULAR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America (Q)	16	9	4	3	27	16	31
Toluca (Q)	16	8	5	3	23	16	29
Tigres (Q)	16	7	7	2	23	16	28
Atlas (Q)	16	8	4	4	20	19	28
Monterrey (Q)	16	8	3	5	21	16	27
Chiapas	16	6	7	3	22	19	25
Leon	16	7	1	8	27	24	22
Pachuca	16	6	4	6	19	18	22
Santos	16	5	7	4	20	21	22
Queretaro	16	6	3	7	22	20	21
Pumas	16	5	6	5	20	18	21
Cruz Azul	16	5	5	6	15	14	20
Tijuana	16	3	9	4	18	17	18
Leones Negros	16	3	7	6	9	15	16
Puebla	16	2	9	5	12	18	15
Veracruz	16	3	6	7	8	14	15
Guadalajara	16	2	7	7	11	19	13
Morelia	16	2	4	10	15	32	10

17-round regular season (17x1); top 8 will enter championship play-offs; no relegation after apertura

Leading goalscorers

11 Mauro Boselli (Leon)
Camilo Sanvezzo (Queretaro)
Dorlan Pabon (Monterrey)
9 Ariel Nahuelpan (Pachuca)

UNITED STATES

Regular season

Oct 22: Salt Lake 2 Chivas 0.
Oct 24: Chicago 2 Houston 1.
Oct 25: Seattle 2 Los Angeles 0; Montreal 1 DC United 1; New England 1 Toronto 0; Dallas 0 Portland 2; Vancouver 1 Colorado 0.
Oct 26: Columbus 2 Philadelphia 1; Chivas 1 San Jose 0; Kansas City 0 New York Red Bulls 2.

USA – REGULAR: EASTERN CONF'NCE – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DC United (Q)	34	17	8	9	52	37	59
N England (Q)	34	17	4	13	51	46	55
Columbus (Q)	34	14	10	10	52	42	52
New York (Q)	34	13	11	10	55	50	50
Kansas City (Q)	34	14	7	13	48	41	49
Philadelphia	34	10	12	12	51	51	42
Toronto	34	11	8	15	44	54	41
Houston	34	11	6	17	39	58	39
Chicago	34	6	18	10	41	51	36
Montreal	34	6	10	18	38	58	28

USA – REGULAR: WESTERN CONF'NCE – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seattle (Q)	34	20	4	10	65	50	64
L Angeles (Q)	34	17	10	7	69	37	61
Salt Lake (Q)	34	15	11	8	54	39	56
Dallas (Q)	34	16	6	12	55	45	54
Vancouver (Q)	34	12	14	8	42	40	50
Portland	34	12	13	9	61	52	49
Chivas	34	9	6	19	29	61	33
Colorado	34	8	8	18	43	62	32
San Jose	34	6	12	16	35	50	30

Top 5 in both conferences qualified for championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

Third title...Jeonbuk boss Choi

SOUTH KOREA

Choi a champion again

Jeonbuk Motors won the national championship for a third time – with all three successes achieved under the guidance of coach Choi Kang-hee.

Their latest title was wrapped up with three games to spare, as they beat Jeju United 3-0 to win the K League Classic – adding to victories in 2009 and 2011.

"We began this season with a special, resolute determination as it is the team's 20th anniversary this year," said Choi, who returned to the club last year after qualifying South Korea for this summer's World Cup.

"I want to thank the fans for waiting for me while I was away as a coach of the national team, and for their ardent support when I came back. I think Jeonbuk have the potential to go on and win more titles now"

Choi was also in charge when Jeonbuk won the AFC Champions League in 2006 and finished runner-up in 2011, and they will now hope to better this season's round-of-16 exit when they enter next term's tournament.

Play-offs round
(single-leg tie between the 4th- and 5th-placed teams in both conferences)
Oct 29: Dallas 2 Vancouver 1.
Oct 30: New York Red Bulls 2 Kansas City 1.
Winners qualified for quarter-finals, to which the top 3 in both conferences qualified automatically

Quarter-finals
1st legs - Nov 1/2; 2nd legs - Nov 8-10
Columbus v New England 2-4, 1-3 (agg 3-7)
Dallas v Seattle 1-1, 0-0
(agg 1-1, Seattle on away goals)
New York Red Bulls v DC United 2-0, 1-2 (agg 3-2)
Salt Lake v Los Angeles 0-0, 0-5 (agg 0-5)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Final

1st leg
Oct 26
AS Vita (DRC) 2 (Mabidi pen 45+3, 77)
ES Setif (Alg) 2 (Mubele og 17, Djahnit 58)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Sikazwe (Zam)
AS Vita: Lukong - Mabele, Ebunga, Dayo, Mouegni, Munganga, Mabidi, Lusadisu (Magola 67), Luvumbu, Mubele (Ngudikama 65), Sentamu.
ES Setif: Khedairia - Megateli, Demmou, Mellouli, Lagraa, Ze Ondo, Zerara, Lamri, Djahnit (Rait 86), Ziaya (Benyettou 78), Younes (Belameiri 90+3).

2nd leg
Nov 1
ES Setif 1 (Younes 50)
AS Vita 1 (Mabidi 54)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Gassama (Gam)
Agg 3-3; ES Setif on away goals
ES Setif: Khedairia - Lagraa, Mellouli, Demmou, Megateli, Belameiri (Lamri 80), Zerara, Ze Ondo, Djahnit (Rait 84), Ziaya (Benyettou 67), Younes.
AS Vita: Lukong - Mabele, Ebunga, Dayo, Mouegni, Munganga, Mabidi, Lusadisu (Kanda 74), Luvumbu, Mubele (Ngudikama 81), Sentamu (Kasereka 90+2).

NIGERIA

NIGERIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kano Pillars (C)	38	19	8	11	57	41	65
Enyimba	38	18	10	10	50	27	64
Warri Wolves	38	18	7	13	49	38	61
Giwa	38	17	9	12	44	34	60
Nasarawa Utd	38	17	8	13	43	37	59
Lobi Stars	38	19	2	17	40	46	59
Abia Warriors	38	17	7	14	51	40	58
Enugu Rangers	38	17	7	14	45	37	58
Dolphins	38	15	10	13	45	34	55
Heartland	38	14	13	11	36	27	55
Sunshine Stars	38	14	12	12	51	47	54
Taraba	38	16	5	17	35	41	53
Sharks	38	14	10	14	42	39	52
El Kanemi W	38	14	9	15	43	35	51
Bayelsa Utd	38	16	3	19	50	54	51
Akwa Utd	38	14	9	15	27	34	51
Gombe Utd (R)	38	14	8	16	42	41	50
Crown (R)	38	11	6	21	30	56	39
Kaduna Utd (R)	38	11	5	22	33	55	38
Nembe City (R)	38	6	10	22	23	73	28

SUDAN

SUDAN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Hilal O (C)	26	20	5	1	53	8	65
Al Merreikh O	26	19	7	0	56	12	64
Al Ahli S	26	12	6	8	31	20	42
Khartoum	26	11	8	7	31	19	41
Al Rabta	26	12	4	10	35	33	40
Al Merreikh F	26	10	10	6	30	28	40
Al Ahli K	26	7	14	5	29	28	35
Al Hilal F	26	8	8	10	20	29	32
Al Nsor	26	8	6	12	19	31	30
Al Amal	26	8	5	13	24	35	29
Al Hilal K	26	7	7	12	26	35	28
Al Ahli A	26	7	7	12	22	34	28
Al Nil (R)	26	3	5	18	12	45	14
Al Ittihad (R)	26	2	4	20	10	41	10

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Final

1st leg
Oct 25
Western Sydney Wanderers (Aus) 1 (Juric 64)
Al Hilal (Sau) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,053. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)
Western Sydney: Covic - Cole (Vitor Saba 83), Hamill, Topor-Stanley, Golec, La Rocca, Mullen, Santalab (Juric 58), Poljak (Spiranovic 76), Haliti, Bridge.
Al Hilal: Al Sudairy - Al Shahrani, Kwak Tae-hwi, Digao, Al Zori, Pintilii, Khariri, S Al Dawsari (Al Salem 90+2), Thiago Neves, Al Faraj (Al Abed 80), Al Shamrani.

2nd leg
Nov 1
Al Hilal 0
Western Sydney Wanderers 0
Att: 63,763. **Ref:** Nishimura (Jap)
Western Sydney 1-0 on agg
Al Hilal: Al Sudairy - Al Shahrani, Digao, Kwak Tae-hwi, Al Faraj, S Al Dawsari, Pintilii, Khariri (Al Qahtani 57), Al Abed (Al Zori 87), Thiago Neves (Al Shalhoub 76), Al Shamrani.
Western Sydney: Covic - Cole, Hamill, Topor-Stanley, Golec, Bridge, Poljak, La Rocca (Spiranovic 76), Haliti, Appiah-Kubi (Vitor Saba 48), Santalab (Juric 58).

AUSTRALIA

Regular season
Oct 24: Brisbane 0 Sydney 2.
Oct 25: Melbourne Victory 5 Melbourne City 2.
Oct 26: Wellington Phoenix 4 Newcastle 1; Adelaide 2 Perth 0.
Oct 31: Melbourne City 1 Adelaide 2.
Nov 1: Perth 2 Newcastle 1.
Nov 2: Sydney 2 Central Coast 0.
Nov 3: Melbourne Victory 2 Wellington Phoenix 0.
Nov 7: Wellington Phoenix 1 Western Sydney 0; Adelaide 0 Sydney 0.
Nov 8: Newcastle 2 Melbourne Victory 2; Brisbane 1 Melbourne City 3.
Nov 9: Central Coast 0 Perth 1.
Nov 14: Newcastle 0 Brisbane 4.
Nov 15: Adelaide 2 Wellington Phoenix 1; Sydney 0 Melbourne Victory 0; Perth 2 Western Sydney 1.
Nov 16: Melbourne City 2 Central Coast 2.

AUSTRALIA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth	6	5	0	1	10	7	15
Adelaide	6	4	2	0	9	4	14
Melbourne V	6	3	3	0	14	6	12
Sydney	6	3	3	0	8	3	12
Wellington P	6	3	0	3	9	8	9
Melbourne C	6	1	3	2	10	12	6
Central Coast	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Brisbane	5	1	0	4	8	10	3
Newcastle	6	0	2	4	5	14	2
West Sydney	4	0	0	4	4	10	0

27-round regular season (9x3); top 6 will qualify for championship play-offs. No relegation from this league

CHINA

CHINA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gua'zhou E (C)	30	22	4	4	76	28	70
Beijing Guoan	30	21	4	5	50	25	67
Gua'zhou R&F	30	17	6	7	67	39	57
Shandong	30	12	12	6	41	29	48
Shanghai D'ya	30	12	12	6	47	39	48
Guizhou	30	11	8	11	33	35	41
Tianjin Teda	30	10	9	11	41	44	39
Jiangsu	30	9	10	11	37	45	37
Shanghai S'ua	30	8	11	11	33	45	35
Liaoning	30	8	9	13	33	48	33
Shanghai S'xin	30	9	6	15	26	42	33
Changchun	30	8	8	14	33	40	32
Hangzhou	30	8	8	14	43	60	32
Henan	30	6	12	12	32	39	30
Dalian A (R)	30	6	11	13	32	45	29
Harbin (R)	30	5	6	19	35	56	21

JAPAN

Oct 22: Urawa 0 Ventforet 0; Omiya 2 Yokohama 3; Kashiwa 1 Gamba 0; Tokyo 2 Sanfrecce 1; Kawasaki 2 Sagan 0; Shimizu 2 Albirex 1; Nagoya 0 Vegalta 0; Cerezo 3 Tokushima 1; Vissel 0 Kashima 0.
Oct 26: Vegalta 1 Kashiwa 2; Vissel 2 Omiya 1; Sagan 0 Albirex 2; Kashima 1 Urawa 1; Yokohama 0 Cerezo 0; Ventforet 2 Kawasaki 1; Shimizu 1 Sanfrecce 3; Gamba 2 Tokyo 1; Tokushima 0 Nagoya 2.
Nov 2: Nagoya 2 Tokyo 2; Gamba 1 Vegalta 1; Cerezo 1 Ventforet 3; Kashiwa 2 Tokushima 0; Kawasaki 2 Shimizu 3; Albirex 1 Kashima 2; Sanfrecce 1 Omiya 1; Sagan 2 Vissel 1.
Nov 3: Yokohama 0 Urawa 1.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urawa	31	18	7	6	50	27	61
Gamba	31	17	5	9	54	30	56
Kashima	31	16	6	9	58	36	54
Sagan	31	17	2	12	38	32	53
Kawasaki	31	15	6	10	52	39	51
Kashiwa	31	14	9	8	41	38	51
Tokyo	31	12	10	9	45	29	46
Sanfrecce	31	12	10	9	41	34	46
Vissel	31	11	12	8	46	43	45
Yokohama	31	12	8	11	33	27	44
Nagoya	31	11	8	12	41	44	41
Albirex	31	11	8	12	27	32	41
Ventforet	31	8	12	11	25	31	36
Vegalta	31	8	10	13	30	44	34
Shimizu	31	10	4	17	39	55	34
Omiya	31	8	8	15	40	56	32
Cerezo	31	7	9	15	32	39	30
Tokushima (R)	31	3	4	24	15	71	13

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions (R) = relegated
(Q) = qualified for next stage

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AUSTRALIA A-LEAGUE 2014-15

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GOALKEEPERS
1 Eugene **GALEKOVIC** (33) 12.06.81
30 John **HALL** (20) 23.10.94
20 Paul **IZZO** (19) 06.01.95

DEFENDERS
3 Nigel **BOOGAARD** (28) 14.08.86
6 **CASSIO** (Bra) (34) 08.01.80
21 Tarek **ELRICH** (27) 01.01.87
23 Jordan **ELSEY** (20) 02.03.94
5 Osama **MALIK** (24) 30.09.90
2 Michael **MARRONE** (27) 27.01.87
4 Dylan **MCGOWAN** (23) 06.08.91
12 Mark **OCHIENG** (17) 09.12.96
15 Ben **WARLAND** (18) 29.09.96

MIDFIELDERS
10 Marcelo **CARRUSCA** (Arg) (21) 09.01.83
22 Fabio **FERREIRA** (Por) (25) 03.05.89
16 Craig **GOODWIN** (22) 16.12.91
8 **ISAIAS** (Spa) (27) 09.02.87
18 James **JEGGO** (22) 12.02.92
24 Bruce **KAMAU** (19) 28.03.95
32 Nathan **KONSTANDOPOULOS** (18) 26.06.96
17 Awer **MABIL** (19) 15.09.95
14 Cameron **WATSON** (27) 31.05.87

FORWARDS
9 Sergio **CIRIO** (Spa) (29) 09.03.85
11 Bruce **DJITE** (27) 25.03.87
7 Pablo **SANCHEZ** (Spa) (31) 24.01.83
13 Dylan **SMITH** (18) 17.05.96

COACH
Josep **GOMBAU** (Spa) (38) 05.06.76

BRISBANE ROAR

GOALKEEPERS
30 Matt **ACTON** (22) 03.06.92
1 Michael **THEO** (33) 11.02.81
21 Jamie **YOUNG** (Eng) (29) 25.08.85

DEFENDERS
14 Daniel **BOWLES** (23) 19.10.91
5 Corey **BROWN** (20) 07.01.94
15 James **DONACHIE** (21) 14.05.93
19 Jack **HINGERT** (24) 26.09.90
26 Lachlan **JACKSON** (19) 12.03.95
13 Jade **NORTH** (32) 07.01.82
2 Matt **SMITH** (32) 15.10.82
3 Shane **STEFANUTTO** (34) 12.01.80

MIDFIELDERS
18 Luke **BRATTAN** (24) 08.03.90
22 Thomas **BROICH** (Ger) (33) 29.01.81
16 Devante **CLUT** (19) 16.10.95
6 George **LAMBADARIDIS** (22) 23.04.92
27 Ben **LITFIN** (19) 25.03.95
8 Steven **LUSTICA** (23) 12.04.91
17 Matt **MCKAY** (31) 11.01.83
23 Dimitri **PETRATOS** (22) 10.11.92
4 Adam **SAROTA** (25) 28.12.88

FORWARDS
28 Brandon **BORRELLO** (19) 25.07.95
20 Kofi **DANNING** (23) 02.03.91
10 **HENRIQUE** (Bra) (29) 09.05.85
7 Mensur **KURTISI** (Mac) (28) 25.03.86
12 Jean Carlos **SOLORZANO** (CR) (26) 08.01.88
34 Patrick **THEODORE** (22) 16.02.92

COACH
Mike **MULVEY** (Eng) (44) 25.02.70

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

GOALKEEPERS
- Beyhan **IRMAKO** (18) 01.01.96
1 Matthew **NASH** (33) 03.04.81
12 Liam **REDDY** (33) 08.08.81

DEFENDERS
5 Zachary **ANDERSON** (23) 30.04.91
25 Eddy **BOSNAR** (34) 29.04.80
27 Zachary **CAIRNCROSS** (24) 26.12.89
6 Brent **GRIFFITHS** (24) 24.03.90
24 Hayden **MORTON** (20) 02.03.94
21 Michael **NEILL** (20) 04.07.94
4 Jacob **POSCOLIERO** (24) 11.04.90
3 Joshua **ROSE** (32) 16.12.81
2 Storm **ROUX** (NZ) (21) 13.01.93
15 Matthew **SIM** (26) 18.04.88

MIDFIELDERS
33 Josh **BINGHAM** (19) 27.12.94
10 Anthony **CACERES** (22) 29.09.92
7 John **HUTCHINSON** (34) 29.12.79
20 Anthony **KALIK** (17) 05.11.97
26 Kim **SEUNG-YONG** (SKo) (29) 14.03.85
8 Nick **MONTGOMERY** (Sco) (33) 28.10.81
16 Liam **ROSE** (17) 07.04.97
15 Matthew **SIM** (26) 18.04.88
18 Glen **TRIFIRO** (25) 10.07.89
17 Richard **VERNES** (Hun) (22) 24.02.92

FORWADS
23 Isaka **CERNAK** (25) 09.06.89
9 Mitchell **DUKE** (23) 18.01.91
11 Nicholas **FITZGERALD** (22) 13.02.92
14 Malick **MANE** (Sen) (26) 14.10.88
19 Matt **SIMON** (28) 22.01.86
22 Tom **SLATER** (18) 26.08.96

COACH
Phil **MOSS** (43) 05.10.71

MELBOURNE CITY

GOALKEEPERS
1 Andrew **REDMAYNE** (25) 13.01.89
20 Tando **VELAPHI** (27) 17.04.87

DEFENDERS
27 Ross **ARCHIBALD** (20) 29.09.94
4 Connor **CHAPMAN** (20) 31.10.94
17 Jason **HOFFMAN** (25) 28.01.89
24 Patrick **KISNORBO** (33) 24.03.81
3 Rob **WIELAERT** (Hol) (25) 29.12.78

MIDFIELDERS
19 Ben **GARUCCIO** (19) 15.06.95
13 Jonathan **GERMANO** (Arg) (26) 01.01.88
22 Nick **KALMAR** (27) 14.10.87
10 Robert **KOREN** (Sln) (34) 20.09.80
21 Stefan **MAUK** (19) 12.10.95
25 Jacob **MELLING** (19) 04.04.95
- Liam **MILLER** (Rol) (33) 13.02.81
6 Aaron **MOOY** (24) 15.09.90
8 Massimo **MURDOCCA** (30) 02.09.84
5 Erik **PAARTALU** (28) 03.05.86
18 Paulo **RETRE** (21) 04.03.93

FORWARDS
14 James **BROWN** (24) 19.02.90
11 Damien **DUFF** (Rol) (35) 02.03.79
23 Mate **DUGANDZIC** (25) 22.10.89
26 Marc **MARINO** (18) 30.04.96
7 Iain **RAMSAY** (26) 27.02.88
15 David **WILLIAMS** (26) 26.02.88

COACH
John **VAN'T SCHIP** (Hol) (50) 30.12.63

MELBOURNE VICTORY

GOALKEEPERS
1 Nathan **COE** (30) 01.06.84
20 Lawrence **THOMAS** (22) 09.05.92

DEFENDERS
4 Nick **ANSELL** (20) 02.02.94
17 Mathieu **DELPIERRE** (Fra) (33) 26.04.81
24 Scott **GALLOWAY** (19) 10.04.95
15 Danijel **GEORGIJEVSKI** (Mac) (27) 18.08.87
2 Jason **GERIA** (21) 10.05.93
23 Adrian **LEIJER** (28) 25.03.86
5 Mark **MILLIGAN** (29) 04.08.85
18 Dylan **MURNANE** (19) 18.01.95

MIDFIELDERS
14 Fahid **BEN KHALFALLAH** (Tun) (32) 09.10.82
26 Jordan **BROWN** (18) 14.08.96
6 Leigh **BROXHAM** (26) 13.01.88
7 Gui **FINKLER** (Bra) (29) 24.09.85
16 Rashid **MAHAZI** (22) 20.04.92
22 Jesse **MAKAROUNAS** (20) 18.04.94
21 Carl **VALERI** (30) 14.08.84

FORWARDS
9 Kosta **BARBAROUSES** (NZ) (24) 19.02.90
8 Besart **BERISHA** (Alb) (29) 29.07.85
13 Andrew **NABBOUT** (21) 17.12.92
11 Connor **PAIN** (21) 11.11.93
10 Archie **THOMPSON** (36) 23.10.78

COACH
Kevin **MUSCAT** (41) 07.08.73

NEWCASTLE UNITED JETS

GOALKEEPERS
1 Mark **BIRIGHITTI** (23) 17.04.91
20 Ben **KENNEDY** (27) 14.02.87
30 John **SOLARI** (20) 15.02.94

DEFENDERS
12 Sam **GALLAGHER** (23) 05.05.91
21 Sam **GALLAWAY** (22) 16.03.92
4 Kew **JALIENS** (Hol) (36) 15.09.78
6 Adrian **MADASCHI** (32) 11.07.82
2 Scott **NEVILLE** (25) 11.01.89
16 Jacob **PEPPER** (22) 08.05.92
3 Taylor **REGAN** (26) 16.11.88
18 Allan **WELSH** (20) 18.02.94

MIDFIELDERS
15 Josh **BARRESI** (19) 10.01.95
8 Zenon **CARAVELLA** (31) 17.03.83
23 David **CARNEY** (30) 30.11.83
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19 Mitch **COOPER** (20) 18.09.94
10 Marcos **FLORES** (Arg) (29) 23.10.85
11 Andrew **HOOLE** (21) 22.10.93
5 Ben **KANTAROVSKI** (22) 20.01.92

FORWARDS
9 Joel **GRIFFITHS** (35) 21.08.79
25 Brandon **LUNDY** (18) 05.07.96
13 Edson **MONTANO** (Ecu) (23) 15.03.91
7 Jeronimo **NEUMANN** (Arg) (28) 03.06.86
17 James **VIRGILI** (22) 08.07.92

COACH
Phil **STUBBINS** (Eng) (52) 18.10.62

PERTH GLORY

GOALKEEPERS
18 Jack **DUNCAN** (21) 19.04.93
30 Jordan **THURTELL** (18) 08.07.96
1 Danny **VUKOVIC** (29) 27.03.85

DEFENDERS
2 Jack **CLISBY** (22) 16.02.92
24 Matthew **DAVIES** (19) 07.02.95
6 Dino **DJULBIC** (31) 16.02.83
21 Scott **JAMIESON** (26) 13.10.88
19 Joshua **RISDON** (22) 27.07.92
23 Michael **THWAITE** (31) 02.05.83
25 Riley **WOODCOCK** (29) 23.05.95

MIDFIELDERS
20 Danny **DE SILVA** (17) 06.03.97
22 Cameron **EDWARDS** (22) 27.03.92
13 Diogo **FERREIRA** (25) 05.10.89
11 Richard **GARCIA** (33) 04.09.81
5 Rostyn **GRIFFITHS** (26) 10.03.88
7 Youssouf **HERSI** (Hol) (32) 20.08.82
10 Nebojsa **MARINKOVIC** (Ser) (28) 19.06.86
17 Mitch **NICHOLS** (25) 05.01.89
3 Brandon **O'NEILL** (20) 12.04.94
16 **SIDNEI** (Bra) (28) 02.11.86
8 Ruben **ZADKOVICH** (28) 23.05.86

FORWARDS
14 Chris **HAROLD** (22) 14.07.92
9 Andy **KEOGH** (Rol) (28) 16.05.86
15 Jamie **MACLAREN** (21) 29.07.93
26 Harry **O'BRIEN** (20) 26.06.94

COACH
Kenny **LOWE** (Eng) (53) 06.11.61

SYDNEY

GOALKEEPERS
30 Anthony **BOUZANIS** (19) 01.11.95
20 Vedran **JANJETOVIC** (Cro) (27) 20.08.87
1 Ivan **NECEVSKI** (34) 25.02.80

DEFENDERS
4 Pedj **BOJIC** (30) 09.04.84
25 Aaron **CALVER** (18) 12.01.96
16 Alex **GERBASCH** (17) 08.05.97
23 Rhyan **GRANT** (23) 26.02.91
5 Matthew **JURMAN** (24) 08.12.89
3 Sasa **OGNENOVSKI** (35) 03.04.79
6 Nikola **PETKOVIC** (Ser) (28) 28.03.86
2 Sebastian **RYALL** (25) 18.06.89

MIDFIELDERS
22 Ali **ABBAS** (Irq) (28) 30.08.86
17 Terry **ANTONIS** (21) 26.11.93
28 Max **BURGESS** (19) 16.01.95
19 Nick **CARLE** (33) 23.11.81
8 Milos **DIMITRIJEVIS** (Ser) (30) 16.02.84
12 Hagi **GLIGOR** (19) 08.04.95
18 Peter **TRIANTIS** (22) 17.01.92

FORWARDS
29 George **BLACKWOOD** (17) 06.04.97
14 Alex **BROSQUE** (31) 12.10.83
7 Corey **GAMEIRO** (21) 07.02.93
11 Bernie **IBINI-ISEI** (11) 12.09.92
21 Marc **JANKO** (Aut) (31) 25.06.83
13 Chris **NAUMOFF** (19) 29.06.95
9 Shane **SMELTZ** (NZ) (33) 29.09.81

COACH
Graham **ARNOLD** (51) 03.08.63

WELLINGTON PHEONIX (NZ)

GOALKEEPERS
20 Lewis **ITALIANO** (23) 10.12.90
1 Glen **MOSS** (NZ) (31) 19.01.83

DEFENDERS
5 Michael **BOXALL** (NZ) (26) 18.08.88
6 Josh **BRINDELL-SOUTH** (22) 28.10.92
3 Reece **CAIRA** (21) 07.01.93
19 Tom **DOYLE** (NZ) (22) 30.06.92
22 Andrew **DURANTE** (32) 03.05.82
16 Louis **FENTON** (NZ) (21) 03.04.93
18 Ben **SIGMUND** (NZ) (33) 03.02.81

MIDFIELDERS
4 Roly **BONEVACIA** (Hol) (23) 08.10.91
8 Alex **GORRIN** (Spa) (21) 01.08.93
15 Jason **HICKS** (NZ) (24) 16.01.90
17 Vince **LIA** (29) 18.03.85
10 Michael **McGLINCHEY** (NZ) (27) 07.01.87
2 Manny **MUSCAT** (29) 07.12.84
23 Matthew **RIDENTON** (NZ) (18) 11.03.96
13 Albert **RIERA** (Spa) (30) 28.12.83
14 Alex **RUFER** (NZ) (18) 12.06.96

FORWARDS
12 Tyler **BOYD** (NZ) (19) 30.12.94
11 Jeremy **BROCKIE** (NZ) (27) 07.10.87
9 Nathan **BURNS** (26) 07.05.88
7 Kenny **CUNNINGHAM** (CR) (29) 07.06.85
21 Roy **KRISHNA** (Fij) (27) 20.08.87

COACH
Ernie **MERRICK** (Sco) (61) 03.01.53

WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS

GOALKEEPERS
20 Dean **BOUZANIS** (24) 02.10.90
1 Ante **COVIC** (39) 13.06.75

DEFENDERS
22 Seyi **ADELEKE** (Nga) (23) 17.11.91
32 Daniel **ALESSI** (17) 26.08.97
2 Shannon **COLE** (30) 04.08.84
6 Antony **GOLEC** (24) 29.05.90
5 Brendan **HAMILL** (22) 18.09.92
18 Jacopo **LA ROCCA** (Ita) (30) 17.02.84
3 Daniel **MULLEN** (25) 26.10.89
4 Nikolai **TOPOR-STANLEY** (29) 11.03.85
13 Matthew **SPIRANOVIC** (26) 27.06.88

MIDFIELDERS
17 Romeo **CASTELEN** (Hol) (31) 03.05.83
31 Alusine **FOFANAH** (17) 21.11.97
7 Labinot **HALITI** (Alb) (30) 26.10.84
15 Yianni **PERKATIS** (20) 08.03.94
8 Mateo **POLJAK** (Cro) (25) 10.09.89
10 Vítor **SABA** (Bra) (24) 11.07.90
23 Jason **TRIFIRO** (26) 03.06.88

FORWARDS
14 Kwabena **APPIAH-KUBI** (NZ) (22) 18.10.92
19 Mark **BRIDGE** (29) 07.11.85
9 Tomi **JURIC** (Cro) (23) 22.07.91
- Golgol **MEBRAHTU** (24) 28.08.90
- Nikita **RUKAVYTSYA** (27) 22.06.87
11 Brendon **SANTALAB** (32) 09.09.82

COACH
Tony **POPOVIC** (41) 04.07.73

(ages as of 28.11.14)

ITALY SERIE A 2014-15

ATALANTA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Vlada **AVRAMOV** (Ser) (35) 05.04.79
78 Giorgio **FREZZOLINI** (38) 21.01.76
57 Marco **SPORTIELLO** (22) 10.05.92

DEFENDERS
6 Gianpaolo **BELLINI** (34) 27.03.80
29 Yohan **BENALOUANE** (Tun) (27) 28.03.87
20 Giuseppe **BIAVA** (37) 08.05.77
33 Nicolo **CHERUBIN** (27) 02.12.86
3 Cristiano **DEL GROSSO** (31) 24.03.83
93 Boukary **DRAME** (Sen) (29) 22.07.85
5 Lionel **SCALONI** (Arg) (36) 16.05.78
2 Guglielmo **STENDARDO** (33) 06.05.81
22 Davide **ZAPPACOSTA** (22) 11.06.92

MIDFIELDERS
16 Daniele **BASELLI** (22) 12.03.92
17 Carlos **CARMONA** (Chl) (27) 21.02.87
21 Luca **CIGARINI** (28) 20.06.86
7 Marco **D'ALESSANDRO** (23) 17.02.91
18 Marcelo **ESTIGARRIBIA** (Par) (27) 21.09.87
10 Alejandro **GOMEZ** (Arg) (26) 15.02.88
95 Alberto **GRASSI** (19) 07.03.95
8 Giulio **MIGLIACCIO** (33) 23.06.81
31 Salvatore **MOLINA** (22) 01.01.92
11 Maximiliano **MORALEZ** (Arg) (27) 27.02.87
77 Cristian **RAIMONDI** (33) 30.04.81

FORWARDS
9 Rolando **BIANCHI** (31) 15.02.83
99 Richmond **BOAKYE** (Gha) (21) 28.01.93
19 German **DENIS** (Arg) (33) 10.09.81
27 Valerio **ROSSETI** (20) 05.08.94
25 Leonardo **SPINAZZOLA** (21) 25.03.93

COACH
Stefano **COLANTUONO** (52) 23.10.62

CAGLIARI

GOALKEEPERS
28 Werther **CARBONI** (18) 04.04.96
1 Simone **COLOMBI** (23) 01.07.91
27 Alessio **CRAGNO** (20) 28.06.94

DEFENDERS
8 Danilo **AVELAR** (Bra) (25) 09.06.89
21 Antonio **BALZANO** (28) 13.06.86
24 Simone **BENEDETTI** (22) 03.04.92
33 Marco **CAPUANO** (23) 14.10.91
32 Luca **CEPPITELLI** (25) 08.11.89
3 Nicola **MURRU** (19) 16.12.94
14 Francesco **PISANO** (28) 29.04.86
15 Luca **ROSSETTINI** (29) 09.05.85

MIDFIELDERS
18 Nicolo **BARELLA** (17) 07.02.97
5 Daniele **CONTI** (35) 09.01.79
7 Andrea **COSSU** (34) 03.05.80
4 Lorenzo **CRISETIG** (21) 20.01.93
16 Daniele **DESSENA** (27) 10.05.87
30 Godfred **DONSAH** (Gha) (18) 07.06.96
20 Albin **EKDAL** (Swe) (25) 28.07.89
26 Sebastian **ERIKSSON** (Swe) (25) 31.01.89
29 Mattia **MURONI** (18) 06.04.96
10 Joao **PEDRO** (Bra) (22) 09.03.92

FORWARDS
12 Alessandro **CAPELLO** (18) 12.12.95
17 Diego **FARIAS** (Bra) (24) 10.05.90
23 Victor **IBARBO** (Col) (24) 19.05.90
19 Antonio **LOI** (18) 25.08.96
9 Samuele **LONGO** (22) 12.01.92
13 Caio **RANGEL** (Bra) (18) 16.01.96
25 Marco **SAU** (27) 03.11.87

COACH
Zdenek **ZEMAN** (CzR) (67) 12.05.47

CESENA

GOALKEEPERS
30 Federico **AGLIARDI** (31) 11.02.83
81 Walter **BRESSAN** (33) 26.01.81
16 Alberto **IGLIO** (18) 20.04.96
1 Nicola **LEALI** (21) 17.02.93

DEFENDERS
25 Daniele **CAPELLI** (28) 20.06.86
15 Luka **KRAJNC** (Sln) (20) 19.09.94
6 Stefano **LUCCHINI** (34) 02.10.80
17 Hordur **MAGNUSSON** (Ice) (21) 11.02.93
3 Antonio **MAZZOTTA** (25) 02.08.89
20 Davide **MORDINI** (18) 30.08.96
2 Constantin **NICA** (Rom) (21) 18.03.93
24 Gabriele **PERICO** (30) 11.03.84
33 Francesco **RENZETTI** (26) 22.01.88
36 Lorenzo **SAPORETTI** (18) 19.03.96
14 Massimo **VOLTA** (27) 14.05.87

MIDFIELDERS
11 Franco **BRIENZA** (35) 19.03.79
7 Carlos **CARBONERO** (Col) (24) 25.07.90
34 Emmanuel **CASCIONE** (31) 22.09.83
44 Riccardo **CAZZOLA** (29) 08.10.85
10 Manuel **COPPOLA** (32) 11.05.82
8 Giuseppe **DE FEUDIS** (31) 10.07.83
5 Luigi **GIORGI** (27) 19.04.87
56 Nico **PULZETTI** (30) 13.02.84
23 Andrea **TABANELLI** (24) 02.02.90
4 Luca **VALZANIA** (18) 05.03.96
22 Abdul **YABRE** (BuF) (19) 03.04.95
77 **ZE EDUARDO** (Bra) (23) 16.08.91

FORWARDS
27 Hugo **ALMEIDA** (Por) (30) 23.05.84
92 Gregoire **DEFREL** (Fra) (23) 17.06.91
18 Milan **DJURIC** (Bos) (24) 22.05.90
61 Luca **GARRITANO** (20) 11.02.94
89 Guido **MARILUNGO** (25) 09.08.89
32 Gabriele **MONCINI** (18) 26.04.96
9 Alejandro **RODRIGUEZ** (Spa) (23) 30.07.91
19 Davide **SUCCI** (33) 11.10.81

COACH
Pierpaolo **BISOLI** (48) 20.11.66

CHIEVO

GOALKEEPERS
25 Francesco **BARDI** (22) 18.01.92
1 Albano **BIZZARRI** (Arg) (37) 09.11.77
33 Christian **PUGGIONI** (33) 17.01.81
90 Andrea **SECULIN** (24) 14.07.90
32 Grega **SORCAN** (Sln) (18) 05.03.96

DEFENDERS
34 Cristiano **BIRAGHI** (22) 01.09.92
12 Bostjan **CESAR** (Sln) (32) 09.07.82
3 Dario **DAINELLI** (35) 09.06.79
26 **EDIMAR** (Bra) (28) 21.05.86
21 Nicolas **FREY** (Fra) (30) 06.03.84
5 Alessandro **GAMBERINI** (33) 27.08.81
20 Gennaro **SARDO** (35) 08.05.79
87 Ervin **ZUKANOVIC** (Bos) (27) 11.02.87

MIDFIELDERS
63 Nicola **BELLOMO** (23) 18.02.91
23 Valter **BIRSA** (Sln) (28) 07.08.86
19 Ruben **BOTTA** (Arg) (24) 31.01.90
14 Isaac **COFIE** (Gha) (23) 20.09.91
56 Perparim **HETEMAJ** (Fin) (27) 12.12.86
13 Mariano **IZCO** (Arg) (31) 13.03.83
6 Tomasz **KUPISZ** (Pol) (24) 02.01.90
84 Thomas **MANGANI** (Fra) (27) 29.04.87
8 Ivan **RADOVANOVIC** (Ser) (26) 29.08.88
24 Ezequiel **SCHELOTTO** (25) 23.05.89

FORWARDS
7 Dejan **LAZAREVIC** (Sln) (24) 15.02.90
10 Maxi **LOPEZ** (Arg) (30) 03.04.84
69 Riccardo **MEGGIORINI** (29) 04.09.85
43 Alberto **PALOSCHI** (24) 04.01.90
31 Sergio **PELLISSIER** (35) 12.04.79

COACH
Rolando **MARAN** (51) 14.07.63

EMPOLI

GOALKEEPERS
28 Davide **BASSI** (29) 12.04.85
16 Matteo **BIGGERI** (18) 25.04.96
1 Maurizio **PUGLIESI** (37) 21.12.76
33 Luigi **SEPE** (23) 08.05.91

DEFENDERS
19 Federico **BARBA** (21) 01.09.93
22 Matteo **BIANCHETTI** (21) 17.03.93
23 Elseid **HYSAJ** (Alb) (20) 02.02.94
2 Vincent **LAURINI** (Fra) (25) 10.06.89
4 Romano **PERTICONE** (28) 13.08.86
24 Daniele **RUGANI** (20) 29.07.94
21 Mario **RUI** (Por) (23) 27.05.91
26 Lorenzo **TONELLI** (24) 17.01.90

MIDFIELDERS
11 Daniele **CROCE** (32) 09.09.82
17 Tiberio **GUARENTE** (29) 01.11.85
13 Diego **LAXALT** (Uru) (21) 07.02.93
5 Davide **MORO** (32) 02.01.82
8 Franco **SIGNORELLI** (Ven) (23) 01.01.91
6 Mirko **VALDIFIORI** (28) 21.04.86
88 Matias **VECINO** (Uru) (23) 24.08.91
27 Piotr **ZIELINSKI** (Pol) (20) 20.05.94

FORWARDS
99 Rodrigo **AGUIRRE** (Uru) (20) 01.10.94
7 Massimo **MACCARONE** (35) 06.09.79
9 Levan **MCHEDLIDZE** (Geo) (24) 24.03.90
20 Manuel **PUCCIARELLI** (23) 17.06.91
95 Emanuele **ROVINI** (19) 20.02.95
77 Irakli **SHEKILADZE** (Geo) (22) 17.09.92
10 Francesco **TAVANO** (35) 02.03.79
18 Simone **VERDI** (22) 12.07.92

COACH
Maurizio **SARRI** (55) 09.01.59

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS
32 Christian **ABBIATI** (37) 08.07.77
1 Michael **AGAZZI** (30) 03.07.84
66 Stefano **GORI** (18) 09.03.96
23 Diego **LOPEZ** (Spa) (33) 03.11.81

DEFENDERS
20 Ignazio **ABATE** (28) 12.11.86
14 Michelangelo **ALBERTAZZI** (23) 07.01.91
33 **ALEX** (Bra) (32) 17.06.82
27 Pablo **ARMERO** (Col) (28) 02.11.86
25 Daniele **BONERA** (33) 31.05.81
2 Mattia **DE SCIGLIO** (22) 20.10.92
5 Philippe **MEXES** (Fra) (32) 30.03.82
13 Adil **RAMI** (Fra) (28) 27.12.85
81 Cristian **ZACCARDO** (32) 21.12.81
17 Cristian **ZAPATA** (Col) (28) 30.09.86

MIDFIELDERS
28 Giacomo **BONAVENTURA** (25) 22.08.89
34 Nigel **DE JONG** (Hol) (29) 30.11.84
15 Michael **ESSIEN** (Gha) (31) 03.12.82
10 Keisuke **HONDA** (Jap) (28) 13.06.86
18 Riccardo **MONTOLIVO** (29) 18.01.85
4 Sulley **MUNTARI** (Gha) (30) 27.08.84
16 Andrea **POLI** (25) 29.09.89
8 Riccardo **SAPONARA** (22) 21.12.91
21 Marco **VAN GINKEL** (Hol) (21) 01.12.92

FORWARDS
92 Stephan **EL SHAARAWY** (22) 27.10.92
98 Hachim **MASTOUR** (16) 15.06.98
7 Jeremy **MENEZ** (Fra) (27) 07.05.87
19 Mbaye **NIANG** (Fra) (19) 19.12.94
11 Giampaolo **PAZZINI** (30) 02.08.84
9 Fernando **TORRES** (Spa) (30) 20.03.84

COACH
Filippo **INZAGHI** (41) 08.08.73

NAPOLI

GOALKEEPERS
45 Mariano **ANDUJAR** (Arg) (31) 30.07.83
15 Roberto **COLOMBO** (39) 24.08.75
1 **RAFAEL** (Bra) (24) 20.05.90
83 Antonio **ROSATI** (31) 26.06.83

DEFENDERS
33 Raul **ALBIOL** (Spa) (29) 04.09.85
5 Miguel **BRITOS** (Uru) (29) 17.07.85
31 Faouzi **GHOULAM** (Alg) (23) 01.02.91
4 **HENRIQUE** (Bra) (28) 14.10.86
26 Kalidou **KOULIBALY** (Fra) (23) 20.06.91

MIDFIELDERS
6 Jonathan **DE GUZMAN** (Hol) (27) 13.09.87
77 Walter **GARGANO** (Uru) (30) 23.07.84
17 Marek **HAMSIK** (Slk) (27) 27.07.87
88 Gokhan **INLER** (Swi) (30) 27.06.84
8 **JORGINHO** (Bra) (22) 21.12.91
19 David **LOPEZ** (Spa) (25) 09.10.89
11 Cristian **MAGGIO** (32) 11.02.82
16 Giandomenico **MESTO** (32) 25.05.82
22 Josip **RADOSEVIC** (Cro) (20) 03.04.94
18 Camilo **ZUNIGA** (Col) (28) 14.12.85

FORWARDS
7 Jose **CALLEJON** (Spa) (27) 11.02.87
9 Gonzalo **HIGUAIN** (Arg) (26) 10.12.87
24 Lorenzo **INSIGNE** (23) 04.06.91
14 Dries **MERTENS** (Blg) (27) 06.05.87
21 **MICHU** (Spa) (28) 21.03.86
91 Duvan **ZAPATA** (Col) (23) 01.04.91

COACH
Rafa **BENITEZ** (Spa) (54) 16.04.60

PALERMO

GOALKEEPERS
68 Andrea **FULIGNATI** (20) 31.10.94
70 Stefano **SORRENTINO** (35) 28.03.79
1 Samir **UJKANI** (Alb) (26) 05.07.88

DEFENDERS
4 Sinisa **ANDJELKOVIC** (Sln) (28) 13.02.86
22 Souleymane **BAMBA** (IvC) (29) 13.01.85
33 Fabio **DAPRELA** (Swi) (23) 19.02.91
13 Emerson **PALMIERI** (Bra) (20) 03.08.94
23 Zouhair **FEDDAL** (Mor) (25) 01.01.89
12 Giancarlo **GONZALEZ** (CR) (26) 08.02.88
7 Achraf **LAZAAR** (Mor) (22) 22.01.92
5 Milan **MILANOVIC** (Ser) (23) 31.03.91
89 Michel **MORGANELLA** (Swi) (25) 17.05.89
6 Ezequiel **MUNOZ** (Arg) (24) 08.10.90
3 Eros **PISANO** (27) 31.03.87
19 Claudio **TERZI** (30) 19.06.84
2 Roberto **VITIELLO** (31) 08.05.83

MIDFIELDERS
8 Edgar **BARRETO** (Par) (30) 15.07.84
15 Francesco **BOLZONI** (25) 07.05.89
18 Ivaylo **CHOCHEV** (Bul) (21) 18.02.93
14 Francesco **DELLA ROCCA** (27) 14.09.87
25 Enzo **MARESCA** (34) 10.02.80
17 Granddi **NGOYI** (Fra) (26) 17.05.88
21 Robin **QUAISON** (Swe) (21) 09.10.93
27 Luca **RIGONI** (29) 07.12.84
20 Franco **VAZQUEZ** (Arg) (25) 22.02.89

FORWARDS
99 Andrea **BELOTTI** (20) 20.12.93
96 Accursio **BENTIVEGNA** (18) 21.06.96
9 Paulo **DYBALA** (Arg) (21) 15.11.93
11 Simon **MAKIENOK** (Den) (24) 21.11.90
10 Joao **SILVA** (Por) (24) 21.05.90

COACH
Giuseppe **IACHINI** (50) 07.05.64

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Alex **CORDAZ** (31) 01.01.83
92 Marijan **CORIC** (Cro) (19) 06.02.95
22 Alessandro **IACOBUCCI** (23) 03.06.91
83 Antonio **MIRANTE** (31) 08.07.83

DEFENDERS
2 Mattia **CASSANI** (31) 26.08.83
15 Andrea **COSTA** (28) 01.02.86
11 Paolo **DE CEGLIE** (28) 17.09.86
19 **FELIPE** (Bra) (30) 31.07.84
18 Massimo **GOBBI** (34) 31.10.80
6 Alessandro **LUCARELLI** (37) 22.07.77
4 Pedro **MENDES** (Por) (24) 01.10.90
29 Gabriel **PALETTA** (28) 15.02.86
33 Andrea **RISPOLI** (26) 29.09.88
13 Stefan **RISTOVSKI** (Mac) (22) 12.02.92
27 Fabiano **SANTACROCE** (28) 24.08.86
42 Davide **ZUCCOLINI** (19) 09.02.95

MIDFIELDERS
30 Afriyie **ACQUAH** (Gha) (22) 05.01.92
7 Jonathan **BIABIANY** (Fra) (26) 28.04.88
14 Daniele **GALLOPPA** (19) 15.05.85
80 Cristobal **JORQUERA** (Chl) (26) 06.04.88
21 Francesco **LODI** (30) 23.03.84
70 Lucas **SOUZA** (Bra) (24) 04.06.90
31 McDonald **MARIGA** (Ken) (27) 04.04.87
8 Jose **MAURI** (18) 16.05.96
54 Solomon **NYANTAKYI** (Gha) (18) 25.03.96
40 Badara **SARR** (Sen) (20) 11.02.94
56 Giovanni **TORTORA** (18) 02.07.96

FORWARDS
10 Ishak **BELFODIL** (Alg) (22) 12.01.92
20 Soufiane **BIDAOUI** (Mor) (24) 20.04.90
99 Antonio **CASSANO** (32) 12.07.82
88 Massimo **CODA** (26) 10.11.88
5 Abdelkader **GHEZZAL** (Alg) (29) 05.12.84
17 Raffaele **PALLADINO** (30) 17.04.84
9 Nicola **POZZI** (28) 30.06.86

COACH
Roberto **DONADONI** (51) 09.09.63

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS
12 Gianluca **CURCI** (29) 12.07.85
26 Morgan **DE SANCTIS** (37) 26.03.77
1 Bogdan **LOBONT** (Rom) (36) 18.01.78
28 Lukasz **SKORUPSKI** (Pol) (23) 05.05.91

DEFENDERS
23 Davide **ASTORI** (27) 07.01.87
42 Federico **BALZARETTI** (32) 06.12.81
91 Arturo **CALABRESI** (18) 17.03.96
5 Leandro **CASTAN** (Bra) (28) 05.11.86
3 Ashley **COLE** (Eng) (33) 20.12.80
25 Jose **HOLEBAS** (Gre) (30) 27.06.84
13 **MAICON** (Bra) (33) 26.07.81
44 Konstantinos **MANOLAS** (Gre) (23) 14.06.91
50 Michele **SOMMA** (19) 16.05.95
35 Vasilis **TOROSIDIS** (Gre) (29) 10.06.85
2 Mapou **YANGA-MBIWA** (Fra) (25) 15.05.89

MIDFIELDERS
16 Daniele **DE ROSSI** (31) 24.07.83
82 Urby **EMANUELSON** (Hol) (28) 16.06.86
24 Alessandro **FLORENZI** (23) 11.03.91
20 Seydou **KEITA** (Mli) (34) 16.01.80
8 Adem **LJAJIC** (Ser) (23) 29.09.91
4 Radja **NAINGGOLAN** (Blg) (36) 04.05.88
32 Leandro **PAREDES** (Arg) (20) 29.06.94
15 Miralem **PJANIC** (Bos) (24) 02.04.90
6 Kevin **STROOTMAN** (Hol) (24) 13.02.90
48 Salih **UCAN** (Tur) (20) 06.01.94

FORWARDS
9 Marco **BORRIELLO** (32) 18.06.82
22 Mattia **DESTRO** (23) 20.03.91
27 **GERVINHO** (IvC) (27) 27.05.87
7 Juan Manuel **ITURBE** (Arg) (21) 04.06.93
96 Antonio **SANABRIA** (Par) (18) 04.03.96
10 Francesco **TOTTI** (38) 27.09.76
53 Daniele **VERDE** (18) 20.06.96

COACH
Rudi **GARCIA** (Fra) (50) 20.02.64

(ages as of 28.11.14)

FIORENTINA

GOALKEEPERS
24 Luca **LEZZERINI** (19) 24.03.95
21 Cristiano **LUPATELLI** (36) 21.06.78
1 **NETO** (Bra) (25) 19.07.89
12 Ciprian **TATARUSANU** (Rom) (28) 09.02.86

DEFENDERS
28 Marcos **ALONSO** (Spa) (23) 28.12.90
19 Jose Maria **BASANTA** (Arg) (30) 03.04.84
36 Nicolo **GIGLI** (18) 10.01.96
55 Ahmed **HEGAZY** (Egy) (23) 25.01.91
34 Gianluca **MANCINI** (18) 17.04.96
23 Manuel **PASQUAL** (32) 13.03.82
4 Micah **RICHARDS** (Eng) (26) 24.06.88
2 Gonzalo **RODRIGUEZ** (Arg) (30) 10.04.84
15 Stefan **SAVIC** (Mac) (23) 08.01.91
40 Nenad **TOMOVIC** (Ser) (27) 30.08.87

MIDFIELDERS
10 Alberto **AQUILANI** (30) 07.07.84
5 Milan **BADELJ** (Cro) (25) 25.02.89
25 Joshua **BRILLANTE** (Aus) (21) 25.03.93
11 Juan **CUADRADO** (Col) (26) 26.05.88
14 Matias **FERNANDEZ** (Chl) (28) 15.05.86
13 Oleksandr **IAKOVENKO** (Ukr) (27) 23.06.87
72 Josip **ILICIC** (Sln) (26) 29.01.88
17 **JOAQUIN** (Spa) (33) 21.07.81
16 Jasmin **KURTIC** (Sln) (25) 10.01.89
32 Andrea **LAZZARI** (29) 03.12.84
8 Marko **MARIN** (Ger) (25) 13.03.89
93 **OCTAVIO** (Bra) (20) 29.12.93
7 David **PIZARRO** (Chl) (35) 11.09.79
20 Borja **VALERO** (Spa) (29) 12.01.85
6 Juan Manuel **VARGAS** (Per) (31) 05.10.83

FORWARDS
30 Khouma **BABACAR** (Sen) (21) 17.03.93
29 Federico **BERNARDESCHI** (20) 16.02.94
77 Mounir **EL HAMDAOUI** (Mor) (30) 14.07.84
33 Mario **GOMEZ** (Ger) (29) 10.07.85
22 Giuseppe **ROSSI** (27) 01.02.87

COACH
Vincenzo **MONTELLA** (40) 18.06.74

GENOA

GOALKEEPERS
23 Eugenio **LAMANNA** (25) 07.08.89
1 Mattia **PERIN** (22) 10.11.92
39 Daniele **SOMMARIVA** (17) 18.07.97

DEFENDERS
13 Luca **ANTONELLI** (27) 11.02.87
3 Luca **ANTONINI** (32) 04.02.82
8 Nicolas **BURDISSO** (Arg) (33) 12.04.81
4 Sebastian **DE MAIO** (Fra) (27) 05.03.87
5 Armando **IZZO** (22) 02.03.92
15 Giovanni **MARCHESE** (30) 17.10.84
14 Facundo **RONCAGLIA** (Arg) (27) 10.02.87
87 Aleandro **ROSI** (27) 17.05.87

MIDFIELDERS
91 Andrea **BERTOLACCI** (23) 11.01.91
21 **EDENILSON** (Bra) (24) 19.12.89
24 Iago **FALQUE** (Spa) (24) 04.01.90
18 Giannis **FETFATZIDIS** (Gre) (23) 21.12.90
19 Leandro **GRECO** (28) 19.07.86
33 Juraj **KUCKA** (Slk) (27) 26.02.87
38 Rolando **MANDRAGORA** (17) 29.06.97
92 Franco **MUSSIS** (Arg) (22) 19.04.92
88 Tomas **RINCON** (Ven) (26) 13.01.88
22 Mario Alberto **SANTANA** (Arg) (32) 23.12.81
69 Stefano **STURARO** (21) 09.03.93

FORWARDS
16 Maxime **LESTIENNE** (Blg) (22) 17.06.92
32 Alessandro **MATRI** (30) 19.08.84
37 Giuseppe **PANICO** (17) 10.05.97
9 Mauricio **PINILLA** (Chl) (30) 04.02.84
10 Diego **PEROTTI** (Arg) (26) 26.07.88

COACH
Gian Piero **GASPERINI** (56) 26.01.58

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS
46 Tommaso **BERNI** (31) 06.03.83
30 Juan Pablo **CARRIZO** (Arg) (30) 06.05.84
1 Samir **HANDANOVIC** (Sln) (30) 14.07.84

DEFENDERS
6 Marco **ANDREOLLI** (28) 10.06.86
14 Hugo **CAMPAGNARO** (Arg) (34) 27.06.80
33 Danilo **D'AMBROSIO** (26) 09.09.88
22 **DODO** (Bra) (22) 06.02.92
54 Isaac **DONKOR** (Gha) (19) 15.08.95
2 **JONATHAN** (Bra) (28) 27.02.86
5 **JUAN** (Bra) (23) 10.06.91
25 Ibrahima **MBAYE** (Sen) (20) 19.11.94
55 Yuto **NAGATOMO** (Jap) (28) 12.09.86
23 Andrea **RANOCCHIA** (26) 16.02.88
15 Nemanja **VIDIC** (Ser) (33) 21.10.81

MIDFIELDERS
29 Gaston **CAMARA** (Gui) (18) 31.03.96
13 Fredy **GUARIN** (Col) (28) 30.06.86
88 **HERNANES** (Bra) (29) 29.05.85
10 Mateo **KOVACIC** (Cro) (20) 06.05.94
44 Rene **KRHIN** (Sln) (24) 21.05.90
17 Zdravko **KUZMANOVIC** (Ser) (27) 22.09.87
18 Gary **MEDEL** (Chl) (27) 03.08.87
90 Yann **M'VILA** (Fra) (24) 29.06.90
20 Joel **OBI** (Nga) (23) 22.05.91

FORWARDS
7 Dani **OSVALDO** (28) 12.01.86
8 Rodrigo **PALACIO** (Arg) (32) 05.02.82
9 Mauro **ICARDI** (Arg) (21) 19.02.93
28 George **PUSCAS** (Rom) (18) 08.04.96
97 Federico **BONAZZOLI** (17) 21.05.97

COACH
Walter **MAZZARRI** (53) 01.10.61

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS
1 Gianluigi **BUFFON** (36) 28.01.78
34 **RUBINHO** (Bra) (32) 04.08.82
30 Marco **STORARI** (37) 07.01.77
40 Giacomo **VOLPE** (18) 16.01.96

DEFENDERS
15 Andrea **BARZAGLI** (33) 08.05.81
19 Leonardo **BONUCCI** (27) 01.05.87
4 Martin **CACERES** (Uru) (27) 07.04.87
3 Giorgio **CHIELLINI** (30) 14.08.84
33 Patrice **EVRA** (Fra) (33) 15.05.81
5 Angelo **OGBONNA** (26) 23.05.88
26 Stephan **LICHTSTEINER** (Swi) (30) 16.01.84
16 Marco **MOTTA** (28) 14.05.86

MIDFIELDERS
22 Kwadwo **ASAMOAH** (Gha) (25) 09.12.88
11 Kingsley **COMAN** (Fra) (18) 13.06.96
8 Claudio **MARCHISIO** (28) 19.01.86
39 Luca **MARRONE** (24) 28.03.90
38 Federico **MATTIELLO** (19) 14.07.95
20 Simone **PADOIN** (30) 18.03.84
7 Simone **PEPE** (31) 30.08.83
37 Roberto **PEREYRA** (Arg) (23) 07.01.91
21 Andrea **PIRLO** (35) 19.05.79
6 Paul **POGBA** (Fra) (21) 15.03.93
2 **ROMULO** (Bra) (27) 22.05.87
23 Arturo **VIDAL** (Chl) (27) 22.05.87

FORWARDS
9 Alvaro **MORATA** (Spa) (22) 23.10.92
12 Sebastian **GIOVINCO** (27) 26.01.87
14 Fernando **LLORENTE** (Spa) (29) 26.02.85
10 Carlos **TEVEZ** (Arg) (30) 05.02.84

COACH
Massimiliano **ALLEGRI** (47) 11.08.67

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS
1 Etrit **BERISHA** (Alb) (25) 10.03.89
55 Guido **GUERRIERI** (18) 25.02.96
22 Federico **MARCHETTI** (21) 07.02.83
77 Thomas **STRAKOSHA** (Alb) (19) 19.03.95

DEFENDERS
5 Edson **BRAAFHEID** (Hol) (31) 08.04.83
39 Luis Pedro **CAVANDA** (Blg) (23) 02.01.91
2 Michael **CIANI** (Fra) (30) 06.04.84
3 Stefan **DE VRIJ** (Hol) (22) 05.02.92
18 Santiago **GENTILETTI** (Arg) (29) 09.01.85
13 Abdoulay **KONKO** (Fra) (30) 09.03.84
85 Diego **NOVARETTI** (Arg) (29) 09.05.85
17 Bruno **PEREIRINHA** (Por) (26) 02.03.88
26 Stefan **RADU** (Rom) (28) 22.10.86

MIDFIELDERS
7 Felipe **ANDERSON** (Bra) (21) 15.04.93
8 Dusan **BASTA** (Ser) (30) 18.08.84
20 Lucas **BIGLIA** (Arg) (28) 30.01.86
27 Lorik **CANA** (Alb) (31) 27.07.83
87 Antonio **CANDREVA** (27) 28.02.87
32 Danilo **CATALDI** (20) 06.08.94
10 **EDERSON** (Bra) (28) 13.01.86
15 Alvaro **GONZALEZ** (Uru) (30) 29.10.84
24 Cristian **LEDESMA** (32) 24.09.82
19 Senad **LULIC** (Bos) (28) 18.01.86
6 Stefano **MAURI** (24) 08.01.80
96 Alessandro **MURGIA** (18) 09.08.96
23 Ogenyi **ONAZI** (Nga) (21) 25.12.92
16 Marco **PAROLO** (29) 25.01.85

FORWARDS
9 Filip **DJORDJEVIC** (Ser) (27) 28.09.87
14 Balde **DIAO** Keita (Sen) (19) 08.03.95
11 Miroslav **KLOSE** (Ger) (36) 09.06.78
78 Mamadou **TOUNKARA** (Sen) (18) 19.01.96

COACH
Stefano **PIOLI** (49) 20.10.65

SAMPDORIA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Angelo **DA COSTA** (Bra) (31) 12.11.83
96 Samuele **MASSOLO** (18) 05.04.96
33 Sergio **ROMERO** (Arg) (27) 22.02.87
2 Emiliano **VIVIANO** (28) 01.12.85

DEFENDERS
86 Fabrizio **CACCIATORE** (28) 08.10.86
29 Lorenzo **DE SILVESTRI** (26) 23.05.88
44 Michele **FORNASIER** (21) 22.08.93
28 Daniele **GASTALDELLO** (31) 25.06.83
3 Djamel **MESBAH** (Alg) (30) 09.10.84
19 Vasco **REGINI** (24) 09.09.90
5 Alessio **ROMAGNOLI** (19) 12.01.95
26 Matias **SILVESTRE** (Arg) (30) 25.09.84

MIDFIELDERS
4 Alessandro **DE VITIS** (22) 15.02.92
6 Alfred **DUNCAN** (Gha) (21) 10.03.93
10 Nenad **KRSTICIC** (Ser) (24) 03.07.90
32 Marco **MARCHIONNI** (34) 22.07.80
14 Pedro **OBIANG** (Spa) (22) 27.03.92
17 Angelo **PALOMBO** (33) 25.09.81
22 Luca **RIZZO** (22) 24.04.92
21 Roberto **SORIANO** (23) 08.02.91

FORWARDS
18 Gonzalo **BERGESSIO** (Arg) (30) 20.07.84
27 Luka **DJORDJEVIC** (Mne) (20) 09.07.94
23 **EDER** (Bra) (28) 15.11.86
7 Francesco **FEDATO** (22) 15.10.92
11 Manolo **GABBIADINI** (23) 26.11.91
9 Stefano **OKAKA** (25) 09.08.89
12 Gianluca **SANSONE** (27) 12.05.87
77 Pawel **WSZOLEK** (Pol) (22) 30.04.92

COACH
Sinisa **MIHAJLOVIC** (Ser) (45) 20.02.69

SASSUOLO

GOALKEEPERS
47 Andrea **CONSIGLI** (27) 27.01.87
79 Gianluca **PEGOLO** (33) 25.03.81
16 Ciro **POLITO** (35) 12.04.79
1 Alberto **POMINI** (33) 17.03.81

DEFENDERS
15 Francesco **ACERBI** (26) 10.02.88
5 Luca **ANTEI** (22) 19.04.92
13 Lorenzo **ARIAUDO** (25) 11.06.89
20 Paolo **BIANCO** (37) 20.08.77
28 Paolo **CANNAVARO** (33) 26.06.81
23 Marcello **GAZZOLA** (29) 03.04.85
3 Alessandro **LONGHI** (25) 25.06.89
21 Thomas **MANFREDINI** (34) 27.05.80
31 Federico **PELUSO** (30) 20.01.84
26 Emanuele **TERRANOVA** (27) 14.04.87
11 Sime **VRSALJKO** (Cro) (22) 10.01.92

MIDFIELDERS
8 Davide **BIONDINI** (31) 24.01.83
33 Matteo **BRIGHI** (33) 14.02.81
6 Raman **CHIBSAH** (Gha) (21) 10.03.93
4 Francesco **MAGNANELLI** (30) 12.11.84
7 Simone **MISSIROLI** (28) 23.05.86
19 Saphir **TAIDER** (Alg) (22) 29.02.92

FORWARDS
25 Domenico **BERARDI** (20) 01.08.94
99 Sergio **FLOCCARI** (33) 12.11.81
83 Antonio **FLORO FLORES** (31) 18.06.83
95 Ettore **GLIOZZI** (19) 23.09.95
14 Leonardo **PAVOLETTI** (26) 26.11.88
17 Nicola **SANSONE** (23) 10.09.91
10 Simone **ZAZA** (23) 25.06.91

COACH
Eusebio **DI FRANCESCO** (45) 08.09.69

TORINO

GOALKEEPERS
13 Luca **CASTELLAZZI** (39) 19.07.75
1 Jean-Francois **GILLET** (Blg) (35) 31.05.79
30 Daniele **PADELLI** (29) 25.10.85

DEFENDERS
5 Cesare **BOVO** (31) 14.01.83
36 Matteo **DARMIAN** (24) 02.12.89
25 Kamil **GLIK** (Pol) (26) 03.02.88
18 Pontus **JANSSON** (Swe) (23) 13.02.91
19 Nikola **MAKSIMOVIC** (Ser) (23) 25.11.91
3 Cristian **MOLINARO** (31) 30.07.83
24 Emiliano **MORETTI** (33) 11.06.81
33 Bruno **PERES** (Bra) (24) 01.03.90
21 Gaston **SILVA** (Uru) (20) 05.03.94

MIDFIELDERS
4 Migjen **BASHA** (Swi) (27) 05.01.87
94 Marco **BENASSI** (20) 08.09.94
7 Omar **EL KADDOURI** (Blg) (24) 21.08.90
8 Alexander **FARNERUD** (Swe) (30) 01.05.84
14 Alessandro **GAZZI** (31) 28.01.83
32 Salvatore **MASIELLO** (32) 31.01.82
23 Antonio **NOCERINO** (29) 09.04.85
6 Ruben **PEREZ** (Spa) (25) 26.04.89
28 Juan **SANCHEZ MINO** (Arg) (24) 01.01.90
20 Giuseppe **VIVES** (34) 14.07.80

FORWARDS
22 **AMAURI** (34) 03.06.80
10 **BARRETO** (Bra) (29) 12.07.85
9 Marcelo **LARRONDO** (Arg) (26) 16.08.88
17 Josef **MARTINEZ** (Ven) (21) 19.05.93
27 Fabio **QUAGLIARELLA** (31) 31.01.83

COACH
Giampiero **VENTURA** (66) 14.01.48

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS
1 Zeljko **BRKIC** (Ser) (28) 09.07.86
31 Orestis **KARNEZIS** (Gre) (29) 11.07.85
97 Alex **MERET** (17) 22.03.97
22 Simone **SCUFFET** (18) 31.05.96

DEFENDERS
14 Nicola **BELMONTE** (27) 15.04.87
18 Igor **BUBNJIL** (Cro) (22) 17.07.92
25 Andrea **CODA** (29) 25.04.85
5 **DANILO** (Bra) (30) 10.05.84
11 Maurizio **DOMIZZI** (34) 28.06.80
32 Marco **DAVIDE** Faraoni (23) 25.10.91
75 Thomas **HEURTAUX** (Fra) (26) 03.07.88
26 Giovanni **PASQUALE** (32) 05.01.82
89 Ivan **PIRIS** (Par) (25) 10.03.89
34 Gabriel **SILVA** (Bra) (23) 13.05.91
2 Molla **WAGUE** (Mli) (23) 21.02.91
27 Silvan **WIDMER** (Swi) (21) 05.03.93

MIDFIELDERS
7 Emmanuel **AGYEMANG-BADU** (Gha) (23) 02.12.90
3 Masahudu **ALHASSAN** (Gha) (21) 01.12.92
6 **ALLAN** (Bra) (23) 08.01.91
95 Lucas **EVANGELISTA** (Bra) (19) 06.05.95
8 Bruno **FERNANDES** (Por) (20) 08.09.94
19 **GUILHERME** (Bra) (23) 05.04.91
21 Melker **HALLBERG** (Swe) (19) 20.10.95
23 **JADSON** (Bra) (21) 30.08.93
33 Panagiotis **KONE** (Gre) (27) 26.07.87
66 Giampiero **PINZI** (33) 11.03.81
17 Albert **RIERA** (Spa) (32) 15.04.82
13 Alexis **ZAPATA** (Col) (19) 10.05.95

FORWARDS
10 Antonio **DI NATALE** (37) 13.10.77
82 Alexandre **GEIJO** (Swi) (32) 05.09.82
24 Luis **MURIEL** (Col) (23) 16.04.91
77 Cyril **THEREAU** (Fra) (31) 24.04.83

COACH
Andrea **STRAMACCIONI** (38) 09.01.76

VERONA

GOALKEEPERS
22 Francesco **BENUSSI** (33) 15.10.81
32 Lorenzo **FERRARI** (18) 09.03.96
95 Pierluigi **GOLLINI** (19) 18.03.95
1 **RAFAEL** (32) 03.03.82
69 Alessandro **SALVETTI** (17) 05.04.97

DEFENDERS
33 Alessandro **AGOSTINI** (35) 23.07.79
28 Davide **BRIVIO** (26) 17.03.88
40 Alejandro **GONZALEZ** (Uru) (26) 23.03.88
16 Antonio **LUNA** (Spa) (23) 17.03.91
25 Rafael **MARQUES** (Bra) (31) 21.09.83
4 Rafael **MARQUEZ** (Mex) (35) 13.02.79
18 Vangelis **MORAS** (Gre) (33) 26.08.81
2 Guillermo **RODRIGUEZ** (Uru) (30) 21.03.84
5 Frederik **SORENSEN** (Den) (22) 14.04.92

MIDFIELDERS
30 Gustavo **CAMPANHARO** (Bra) (22) 04.04.92
20 Lazaros **CHRISTODOULOPOULOS** (Gre) (27) 19.12.86
10 Emil **HALLFREDSSON** (Ice) (30) 26.06.84
23 Artur **IONITA** (Mac) (24) 17.08.90
11 Bosko **JANKOVIC** (Ser) (30) 01.03.84
71 Ivan **MARTIC** (Cro) (24) 02.10.90
8 Mounir **OBBADI** (Fra) (31) 04.04.83
26 Jacopo **SALA** (22) 05.12.91
77 Panagiotis **TACHTSIDIS** (Gre) (23) 15.02.91
27 Mattia **VALOTI** (21) 06.09.93

FORWARDS
96 Pierluigi **CAPPELLUZZO** (18) 09.06.96
93 Mohamed **FARES** (Alg) (18) 15.02.96
21 **JUANITO** (Arg) (29) 20.05.85
17 Nicolas **LOPEZ** (Uru) (21) 01.10.93
99 **NENE** (Bra) (31) 28.07.83
7 Javier **SAVIOLA** (Arg) (32) 11.12.81
9 Luca **TONI** (37) 26.05.77

COACH
Andrea **MANDORLINI** (54) 17.07.60

World Soccer's GREAT TEAMS

Borussia Monchengladbach 1975

The German club who dominated even the brilliant Bayern Munich domestically

Victorious...Gladbach in the summer of 1975, with the previous season's Bundesliga trophy and the UEFA Cup

Bayern Munich and Borussia Monchengladbach shared nine Bundesliga titles between 1969 and 1977. And while the Bayern team of Maier, Beckenbauer, Hoeness and Muller that won three European Cups in the early 1970s was arguably the greatest Germany had produced, Gladbach won five domestic championships to Bayern's four.

Even after Gunter Netzer left for Real Madrid in 1973, Hennes Weisweiler continued to mould a brilliant team, culminating in the 1974-75 season in which they added the UEFA Cup to their third Bundesliga title and set a new league record of 17 games without defeat in the process.

After a goalless first leg in the UEFA Cup Final, *World Soccer*'s Arthur Rotmil noted: "FC Twente, one of the most improved sides in Europe, seemed set for victory following the first leg 0-0 draw in Dusseldorf. But it was a different story in Enschede.

"The Germans, now with the recovered Heynckes, stormed boldly into attack, scored twice within the first 10 minutes and ran out worthy winners by 5-1.

"Heynckes celebrated his return with a hat-trick, whilst the irrepressible Simonsen scored twice. It was the highest away win ever recorded in the Final of this tournament."

Weisweiler, who Rotmil described as "turning Borussia from a village club into a world-class side", ended his 11-year reign, but Borussia would come again under the former Bayern coach Udo Lattek.

The Bundesliga was won again in 1976 and 1977 – when they almost added the European Cup, outplaying Liverpool for long periods in the Final before eventually losing 3-1. They did, however, triumph in Europe once more, beating Red Star Belgrade 2-1 on aggregate in the UEFA Cup Final in 1979. WS

THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

Hennes Weisweiler
Took charge in 1964 and built one of the best club sides in German history. He won three Bundesliga titles, the German Cup and the UEFA Cup between 1970 and 1975, then left for Barcelona. Won the German Cup in 1977 and the double the following year with Cologne and also won US and Swiss titles, with New York Cosmos and Grasshoppers respectively.

Tactics
Weisweiler used a fluid 4-3-3, with the front three and the midfield constantly swapping positions in a high-tempo take on "Total Football". In the second leg of the UEFA Cup Final against Twente, the Dutch were picked off on the counter and the game was more or less over after 10 minutes. Gladbach's three attackers ran around so much that each went through two pairs of boots!

THE STARTING XI

Wolfgang Kleff
Goalkeeper
In the shadow of Sepp Maier when it came to the national team. Finished his career at the age of 40.

Hans-Jurgen Wittkamp
Sweeper
Signed from Schalke in 1971 and was an integral part of the club's success, in midfield or as sweeper.

Berti Vogts
Right-back
Played for his only club side for 14 years. Went on to coach Germany to success at Euro 96.

Ulrich Surau
Defender
Tall central defender who could also play in midfield. Finished his career with NEC in Holland.

Hans Klinkhammer
Left-back
Another versatile player who could operate in defence or midfield and liked to get forward.

Rainer Bonhof
Midfielder
Cultured midfielder or defender who possessed one of the most powerful shots in the game.

Dietmar Danner
Midfielder
Spent nine years at the club and played in four UEFA Cup Finals, winning two and losing two.

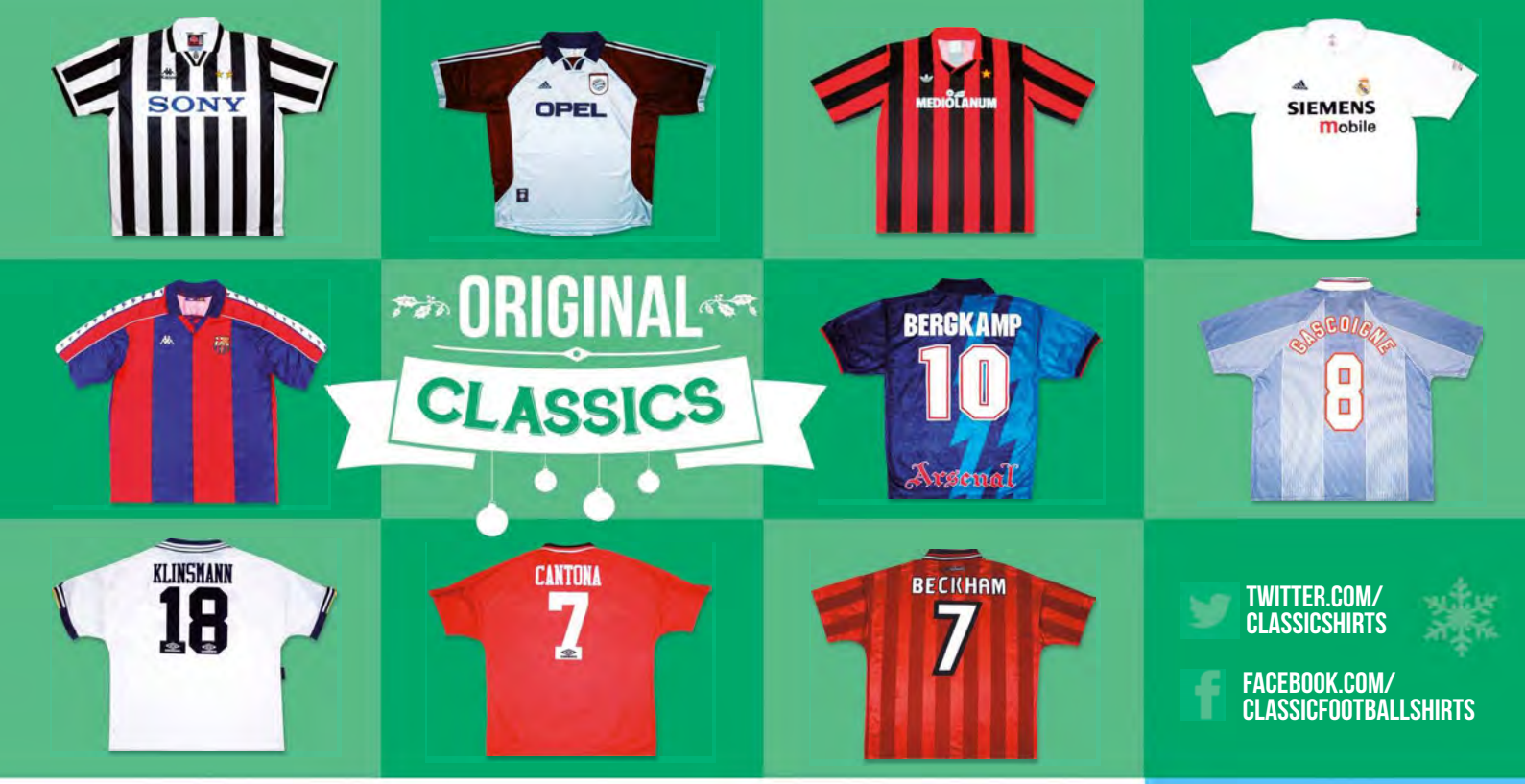
Herbert Wimmer
Midfielder
Was known as "Iron Lung" for his work rate and ability to run all day. Spent his whole career at the club.

Allan Simonsen
Forward
One of Denmark's finest players, he scored four goals in three European club Finals for Gladbach.

Jupp Heynckes
Forward
Outstanding striker who scored more than 200 goals for the club in just over 300 appearances.

Henning Jensen
Forward
Another Dane, he scored 44 goals in 125 games before going on to play for Real Madrid and Ajax.

NEXT MONTH JANUARY ISSUE ON SALE DECEMBER 30



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